

EAST BETHEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING

June 15, 2015

The East Bethel Economic Development Authority (EDA) met for a regular meeting on June 15th, 2015 at 7:00 P.M at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Butler* Steve Voss Doug Welter
* Chairperson Brian Mundle John Landwehr Brian Bezanson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Julie Lux

ALSO PRESENT: Colleen Winter, Community Development Director
Jack Davis, City Administrator

1. **Call to Order** Mr. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Adopt Agenda** **Mr. Bezanson motioned to adopt the agenda. Mr. Mundle seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Approve May 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes** **Mr. Voss motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Bezanson seconded; all others in favor. Motion carried.**

4. **Presentation** Recognition of Aggressive Hydraulics receiving Small Business Excellence Award

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Minnesota Small Business Development Centers and the SCORE Association presented the 2015, 52nd Annual Small Business Awards on Thursday May 7th as part of the National Small Business Week. Michelle Mueller, Vice President of Minnesota Business Finance Corporation (MBFC) nominated Aggressive Hydraulics, Inc. of East Bethel, MN and they were selected as a Small Business Excellence Award recipient.

Criteria for this award include response to adversity, service to their community, growth, longevity and innovation of products and services. Aggressive Hydraulic was founded 13 years ago by seven skilled industry individuals who believed they could deliver a product that could compete with overseas factories. They engineer, manufacture and repair mobile hydraulic cylinders for heavy equipment in the construction, forestry/logging, mining, and energy industries.

The business started with a 14,000 square foot building in Blaine, MN and had expanded into 2 additional buildings. However, efficiency was becoming an issue. The owners took time to design a new state of the art 60,000 square foot facility. MBFC collaborated with Roger Hamilton from Bank Cherokee and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, and the City of East Bethel to assist Paul Johnson and his partners with financing for the new 60,000 square foot facility. Construction started in 2012 and the company took occupancy in 2013. They have 54 employees at their facility in East Bethel and have added employees every year since 2009. Aggressive Hydraulics' creative approach to growth and doing right by their employees and customers has resulted in their sales doubling over the past five years.

Mr. Butler suggested an article in the Anoka County Union to recognize the local

business for their award. Members agreed this would be a good way to publicize the positive business environment in the East Bethel community.

Mr. Butler made a motion to recommend an article to The Union recognizing Aggressive Hydraulics for their award. Mr. Bezanson seconded; all others in favor. Motion carried.

5. Business Development Report

Ms Winter presented the following information:

The City Council approved a Conditional Use Permit for Brown-Wilbert. They are a 98 year old company that makes septic tanks and burial vaults and they are in the process of purchasing the property at the southeast corner of Highway 65 and 221st Avenue. There are two existing buildings there right now and their interest at present is to use the fenced in area for storage of the septic tanks while ultimately planning to bring their headquarters to this location. This will include manufacturing and an office complex with 20 – 25 employees. They hope to do this within the next three – six years.

Mr. Butler asked about questions that came up about signage or display for the business. Mr. Voss explained that the business was limited to only eight tanks for display and the rest of the tanks would be stored behind a fence. The company would have to comply with the City ordinance for any signage. Mr. Voss stated the company was welcomed by the City Council.

Continuation of referrals of businesses to Anoka County Open to Business Representative.

Continuation of the development of the BR&E program

On June 17th, the City Council will be listening to proposed amendments to the City Comprehensive Plan through the City Zoning Ordinance to allow the location of taprooms and microbreweries and food trucks as permitted uses in business and light industrial zoning districts. There is an individual interested in opening up a taproom. This is a two step process that requires looking at the zoning for land use and then the liquor ordinances for licensing of the businesses. With recent action by the state there will also need to be discussion regarding Sunday laws.

Assisting a business interested in locating a wedding event center in the City. They are looking at land on 221st Ave with plans to build a barn as part of the venue.

Met with a number of individuals who are interested in developing their properties for residential use and meeting with the Metropolitan Council to correct our Comprehensive Plan regarding density requirements

Provided assistance to RAK Construction for an expansion to their business

The Piwik Analysis for May is at Attachment 5.1. Mr. Voss suggested that names not be published on the list of searches to prevent invasion of privacy. Mr. Welter asked about noticeable trends. Ms Winter noted that cemetery plot maps had been searched often, possibly associated with Memorial Day. The AED map and Parks and Trails

map were also downloaded frequently.

6. Chamber Report

Mr. Butler reported that 22 people attended the Chamber meeting at The Pines Craft Retreat on June 11th. They had a presentation on the BR&E by Doug Welter. The Golf Outing will be held on July 17th at Viking Meadows. There are several foursome spots available but it will be a full house. The Chamber website has details.

The Chamber has a new brochure available in the City Hall front entrance. It has a slot for a business card and their mission statement. They also have folders with a letter from the mayor and a letter from the President of the Chamber of Commerce that can be customized according to what they want. These can be used as a recruitment tool. Mr. Mundle requested a presentation on these tools at the next public hearing at the City Council.

7. Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Update

Mr. Welter reported that the Leadership Team continues to meet every two weeks and their focus now is to enlist the remaining required members of the task force. They need at least three but five more would be optimal.

They will be calling Chamber members that haven't already been contacted. Team members will be in touch with Realty offices, Senior groups and The Lions Club. Village Bank and a local Church will also be contacted. Once they have a complete Task Force, with a target by the end of June, the application will be submitted.

They plan to send out routine communication to volunteers on a bi-weekly basis so they don't feel completely disconnected from the process until they begin the interviews. The Leadership Team will be trained on the interview process on Aug 17th. There will be at least two training sessions for all the volunteers in early Sept.

They are currently doing background work in preparation for the interview process. Mr. Landwehr asked how important it is for volunteers to be able to attend all meetings of the Task Force. Mr. Welter explained that there are some meetings that are very important but that it is understood that a member may have to miss some meetings.

8. City Council Report

Mr. Voss reported that budget meetings will begin soon. Mr. Mundle stated that Gibson was approved for the Ice Arena contract and the west end of 209th has been temporarily closed due to dumping in that area. A rental ordinance and a chicken ordinance were also passed.

9. Other Business

None

10. Adjournment

Mr. Bezanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Landwehr seconded; all in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by:
Susan Lori Irons
Recording Secretary