

EAST BETHEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
October 16, 2017

The Economic Development Authority (EDA) met for a regular meeting at East Bethel City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Butler, President Doug Welter Wanda McLaurin
 Julie Lux Steve Voss Randy Plaisance

ABSENT: Brian Bezanson

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

1. Call to Order President Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Adopt Agenda **Mr. Voss moved, and Ms. Lux seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

3. Approve Minutes **Ms. McLaurin moved, and Mr. Welter seconded to approve the September 18, 2017 minutes as written. Motion carried with Ms. Lux abstaining.**

4. Review of 2017 Projects and 2017 Work Plan 2017 – 2020 Hwy 65 Corridor Projects
 City Administrator Davis presented maps showing where projects have been completed and where projects are happening in the City, i.e. service road, apartment complex, Viking Preserve single family housing, three RCI's, Central Avenue road reconstruction and utilities project on the east side of Hwy 65, and the Phase 2 service road project to the north of the same reconstructed road. Mr. Davis also presented a map showing developable areas in the city. President Butler asked about Phase 2 and if it is for the backage/service road. Mr. Davis clarified that the street that runs in front of the businesses on the east side of Hwy 65 is Central Avenue. The road that runs behind the businesses is the service road and that the extension will be to the service road.

 2017 Strategic Work Plan
 EDA 2017 priorities were reviewed. In 2018, specific projects will be reviewed and discussed as future projects.

 Ms. Winter reported that the Comprehensive Plan is making great progress. It would have been nice to see more community involvement, but it is clear the public wants to keep the rural areas rural and have businesses located on the Hwy 65 corridor.

 Ms. Winter also reported that she met with the Coon Lake Improvement Association (CLIA) regarding Coon Lake having it's own designation in the Comprehensive Plan update.

5. Promotional video
Ms. Winter played the 30 second City of East Bethel promotional video that was commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce. This video was played at the MNCAR Expo and can be found on the city website. “East Bethel rural character, metro accessibility” may end up being the new tag line for the city. Members discussed adding the two-minute version to the flash drives left over from the MNCAR Expo.
- 6.MNCAR / Anoka Co. Broker Events Update
The City of East Bethel and EDA participated in the MNCAR Expo event and the Anoka County Broker event.
Both events were held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 with the Anoka County event taking place in the morning and the MNCAR event in the afternoon.
President Butler asked if there was money in the budget to cover the cost to upload the promotional video to the 40-50 flash drives left over from the MNCAR Expo, which the Chamber could then distribute. Ms. Winter said she believed there were funds available.
Mr. Voss suggested doing an updated more customized presentation at next year’s MNCAR Expo showing the changes that have occurred in East Bethel. He also said a map of the whole city would have been helpful at the Expo. Ms. Winter thought attendance was slightly down at the Expo. Ms. Lux thought there was a lot of traffic and that it was/is a worthwhile event to participate in.
East Bethel needs to up its game for the Anoka Co. Brokers event. Ms. Winter suggested East Bethel partnering with St. Francis next year as northern Anoka County rural communities.
7. Chamber of Commerce / BR&E updates
Sunrise breakfast had 30-35 people in attendance.
President Butler noted that the Chamber donated \$1,500 to Booster Days and \$300 to the Anoka County Food Shelf. Also, there are positions open on the Chamber Board and nominations are being taken.
Next meeting is November 9 from 3:00-4:30 pm at Hidden Haven, with sign ordinance as the topic.
8. Council Report
Mr. Voss reported:
- There was a public hearing on TIF 1-3, which the Council passed. A developers’ agreement meeting is scheduled for 10/18/17.
 - A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new service road on the west side of Hwy 65 is scheduled for 10:00 am on Friday.

- The Fire Department open house had a canine unit presentation, Life Link helicopter, airboat from the Anoka Co. Sheriff's Department, along with a Sheriff Dept. infrared drone demonstration. Three Lionesses took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in the chili cook-off.

Mr. Plaisance reported:

- A brief Comp Plan update.
- Eldon Holmes resigned from the Planning Commission, so a position is now open.
- Al Thunberg resigned from the Roads Commission, so a position is now open.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Plaisance moved and Ms. McLaurin seconded to adjourn at 7:29 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gessner, Recording Secretary
Submitted 10/30/17