

## EAST BETHEL TOWN HALL MEETING

April 16, 2013

The East Bethel City Council met on April 16, 2013 for the Town Hall meeting at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:      Bob DeRoche              Ron Koller              Richard Lawrence  
                                 Heidi Moegerle              Tom Ronning

ALSO PRESENT:              Jack Davis, City Administrator  
                                 Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager  
                                 Rita Pierce, Fiscal and Support Services Director  
                                 Craig Jochum, City Engineer  
                                 Colleen Winter, Community Development Director  
                                 Nick Schmitz, Building Official/Code Enforcement Officer  
                                 Mark DuCharme, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director  
                                 Lt. Shelly Orlando, Anoka County Sheriff's Office

Call to Order      **The April 16, 2013 Town Hall meeting was called to order by Mayor Lawrence at 6:02 PM.**

Lawrence, "If anyone has any comments that they would like Council or myself to address, please step up."

Fire Chief, Mark DuCharme, "I have a couple of announcements. The DNR has issued a news release, starting this Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. burning restrictions are going into effect. They will be in effect until the green up, late spring or early summer. So, if you have anything to burn you only have two to three days to do it. Also, this week is Severe Weather Awareness Week. Thursday is our Tornado drill. The Weather Service will issue a mock tornado watch and then they will issue a mock tornado warning. The sirens will sound twice on that day. The first time will be about 1:45 p.m. and then the second time will be about 6:55 p.m. If you have any issues with sirens that don't seem to be working right, I need to hear that. I just looked at my latest report and it looks like they are all sending and receiving the way they are supposed to." Lawrence, "You can just call the City if they aren't working."

Moegerle, "Can you tell them about Emergency Plan we are working on?" Chief DuCharme, "What a time to have an Emergency Plan. The Council and city staff is working on our Emergency Plan. And, should there be a disaster in our City, we actually have a plan that we are working on and we could implement right this minute if we have to. Just so you know, if there was a need to have an Emergency Operations Center open, it would be at the Fire Station on Viking. The reason it wouldn't be here, is we have an emergency backup generator over there. Sometime in the future, City Hall will have a generator and we will move it up here. We have a plan in place; all the Council and City staff are involved in this. And we will rely on our partners, our sheriff's department and other disciplines to enact it. We will also have a system set up to communicate with residents. In case there are families displaced, we know where we have taken them. And, if we have to evacuate, we will now where to take the people. So, we are just doing the planning up front."

Denise Lachinski (resident), "Are there emergency shelters designated, such as buildings to go to, in the City?" Chief DuCharme, "Yes, we are identifying those in the plan. The fact of the matter is we know almost 70-90% of residents will want to do in-home shelter when a storm or that kind of a disaster comes through. They will want to hunker down in their homes. But, sometimes we will have to move people. And, we will have shelters designated

and will have a mode of communication so people will know where to go.” Resident, “You mentioned a tornado, what happens if a tornado hits the fire station?” Chief DuCharme, “Here in East Bethel we have Mutual Aid Agreements with all of the county Fire Departments, plus our neighbors to the north in Isanti County. Also in our Emergency Plan we have designated three deep in emergency operation centers. If that were to happen, we could likely end up at the Coon Lake Community Center, even though they may not have all of the supplies and things we need there like we do at the Fire Station. Even with staff positions in the Emergency Plan, we try to go three deep. All of this is trying to make sure the local government operates and can function for the residents.” Ronning, “Is there more information that will be available?” Chief DuCharme, “I am hoping we will be able to take the main part of the plan and put it on our website for the residents to read. The final version we come up with.” Ronning, “And if they don’t have internet, we should be able to do something here so they can see it.” Moegerle, “It will be in the newsletter.”

Davis, “One important item that has occurred in the last week or ten days is our water and sewer system is now operational. We have our first customer hooked-up. We hope they are the first of many. Staff is working to do what they can to attract other development to help pay for this system. We are looking forward to working with the EDA and Planning Commission to further promote growth along the corridor. We invite anybody that has any ideas, any suggestions, to bring them to us. Anything is worthy of consideration. We are looking for your help, along with staff and other consultants, the City Engineer, Anoka County, people with the state. We are trying to involve as many people as we can to further these development efforts.” Denise Lachinski, “Can we get an update on development? I know there has been some talk of other development coming to East Bethel.” Davis, “We have been working with some developers and have had contacts with several others. The only thing I can say now is there we are working with one developer who is interested in developing the northwest corner of Co. Rd. 22 and Hwy. 65. And we hope that there will be some kind of announcement by the end of the year on what may occur there. It does look promising. We feel there is an underserved market for certain services here. And we expect that void to be filled. Our Community Development Director will speak in a few minutes here and she can address this issue further.”

Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager, “Recently, the Park and Road Commissions went through their Capital Improvement process. Planning for next year. Some of the big projects we have coming up for this year are the frontage road on the west side of Hwy. 65, from 221<sup>st</sup> to Johnson Street. We are also working on the improvements to the Lincoln, Laurel and Longfellow Roads that go into the Coon Lake Beach neighborhood. And, there are number of sealcoat roads that will be taking place. They are all listed in the newsletter but most are along Viking Boulevard on the north side of Coon Lake. For the parks system we are looking at replacing playground equipment at Whispering Aspen development and improvements at Whispering Oaks development.”

Moegerle, “Could you tell us about the clear cutting and the Sandhill Crane group and what they are looking at?” Ayshford, “If you are not familiar with this, in the center of the City there is a large chunk of public property. Some is owned by the City of East Bethel, some is owned by Anoka County and some is owned by the State of Minnesota as School Trust Land and a small chunk is owned by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). We have recently been informed that the DNR that manages the School Trust Land is planning on doing some clear cutting of the oaks in that area. I think the total is 200+ acres that they are looking at clear cutting. There will be a meeting coming up in the next couple weeks that we can post if you are interested in coming. Essentially they are going to go in and clear cut all

the red oaks in that area. It is the area located behind the Ice Arena and Mud and Deer Lake.”

DeRoche, “What is the reason for that?” Ayshford, “The property is State Trust Land, owned by the state and managed by the DNR. They have been given direction from the state legislature to manage that property for the most monetary gain to help fund public schools. This goes for all the state land throughout Minnesota that is State Trust Land. Their idea to make money is to clear cut the timber and sell the timber off.” Moegerle, “Didn’t they say at the meeting that they expected to get \$20,000 to \$30,000?” Nate, “Yes, but there was some confusion on what that figure was for. We should have better information at the next meeting.” Sherry Allenspach (resident), “Is there a date for the meeting yet?” Ayshford, “No, not yet.” Moegerle, “The other side of the clear cutting issue is there are other ways to prevent Oak Wilt from spreading and they were discussing how you can do that. So their view was, ‘Let’s clear cut all of it,’ as opposed to, ‘Let’s take those options.’ So, that is where the controversy is coming up.” Ayshford, “The City along with Anoka County has submitted a letter trying to propose a different management style of doing some selective harvesting in there.”

Craig Jochum, City Engineer, “I attended a [pre-construction meeting] today for the finishing of Viking Blvd. west of Hwy. 65. It is a new contractor out of Rochester that is putting on the surface. They have 55 days to finish once they start. They anticipate starting on April 29<sup>th</sup>, pending the weather. So, we are probably looking at mid to late June finish date. They will update the City on traffic control, will be one way stuff going on. Will be replacing a culvert just west of Jackson, so the street will be closed for a short time. Our other major project that is coming up this year is the forcemain project. This will pump wastewater from a plant the City has in the very north end that we will be de-commissioning and pump the wastewater to the new system. Hopefully that will be done late fall, early winter. That plant at the north end is at the end of its life, so they would have to spend a lot of money to get it back to regulation. The other thing is the City will benefit by the SAC obligations to the Met Council. Those SACs as they are sold up there and connect will count towards those obligations.”

Colleen Winter, Community Development Director, “I am new to East Bethel; I have only been here about four and a half months. As the Community Development Director I am responsible for both the economic development, as well as the planning. Also, my department is the Building Department. Nick Schmitz is here, he is our building official. Basically, Denise had asked about economic development. My favorite saying and I know the Council probably gets sick of me saying it and so does the EDA Board. But when it comes to economic development it truly is a marathon, it is not a sprint. As we start those conversations with development groups, it usually takes quite a while for something to go from conception to actually the project phase. And, we are starting those discussions with several different folks right now. A couple things we are doing on our end that I believe are exciting and are going to raise the profile for what we do is on our City website we will have the ability to list available commercial property. We will have a business directory. Also want to make you aware of that fact that the first meeting of a beginning of a Chamber, is happening on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and that will be on our website. Also, we are about making sure we are working with our existing business community as well. From a planning perspective we are in the process of identifying the uses we could have in the Hwy. 65 corridor, to make it more practicable to what we have today.”

Nick Schmitz, “I am the Building Official and Code Enforcement Officer. Currently we do code enforcement for East Bethel and building inspections for Bethel, East Bethel and Oak Grove. We started Oak Grove at the beginning of this year and we have issued about 3 or 4 new home permits for Oak Grove and I have 3 or 4 more ready to be picked up. I also have

one new home to be picked up for East Bethel and I believe we issued one or two earlier this year. Currently, I am doing a lot of code enforcement for East Bethel. We don't drive around looking for things, but we have been getting a lot of calls from residents regarding their neighbors and some neighborhoods. I am also working on revising City Ordinances."

Rita Pierce, Fiscal and Support Services Director, "I am the Fiscal and Support Services Director, otherwise known as a Finance Director. We have already started the 2014 Budget planning stages. All department heads you have seen up here have gotten spreadsheets and history so they can go through and see what they have spent in years past and see what their desires are for the future. By ordinance we are to submit a preliminary budget to Council by July 1<sup>st</sup>. That gives Council adequate time to have workshops. The legislature is talking about changing the Truth and Taxation meeting and having to have a budget hearing prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> and it would affect this year already."

Lt. Shelly Orlando, East Bethel Liaison for Anoka County Sheriff's Office, "Spring has not sprung. As a result of our cold snap we are still going through, it has been relatively quiet. County-wide we are still seeing a lot of grandparent scams, where you get a call from grandson or granddaughter, niece or nephew saying they have been arrested in a foreign country and they need to wire them thousands of dollars. And then you talk to someone that says they are an officer from this foreign agency. Unfortunately, some people do fall for this and wire thousands of dollars to Canada or other countries and that money is gone. Be mindful, tell your friends about these kinds of things. We also are seeing a lot of people that are selling things on Craig's list and say, 'You only wanted \$3,000 for this, but here is \$7,000 if you can just cash the check and send me the \$4,000 back at this address.' This is a scam. That check is going to come back as not valid. People are falling for this. Pass along to friends, relatives and co-workers. We have deputies out there and if you see anything goofy going on, like to talk to a deputy, they are there for you. Pick up the phone; call 911 or the non-emergency number. Either call goes the same place. We need your help to stop crime."

Moegerle, "Can we get an update on the website and the reader board?" Davis, "The website is still a work in progress. We are trying to schedule a website meeting. As soon as the website meeting is set we will go through the issues and lay out a plan to address those. We are working on migrating it as fast as we can. If we find that we are still running a little behind, we might have to consider an intern or interim help. The reader board, we are hopefully going to have Connexus out there in a day or two to get the power worked out. The sign is almost finished and we would hope for an install maybe next week. We were originally promised it would be ready around the first of April, but they are running a little behind. So, the sign is being fabricated, I have seen pictures of it in the shop. It looks really nice. And, hopefully it will be done in the next few days and ready to install and the electrical connections will be done in the next couple days. We do have to give Connexus a check before they will come out."

Harley Hansen (resident), "Where are we at with the branding name for the City?" Moegerle, "We had a marketing and branding study. That is something that the EDA is looking at and going forward. As far as name and that kind of stuff, that is not the issue. It is more attracting businesses to the City. We were going to establish a brand for the City." Davis, "I think Harley is referring to the Ady Voltedge study that was completed last year, which was essentially more of a marketing study. It did address issues of branding. Part of that would be up to the City to determine what its identity is before that could be considered. But that study was more of a marketing study and way to promote the City, and how to improve our image. And recommend some basic things we can do to enhance our economic developments."

Lawrence, "We have been doing a lot of work with the EDA trying to attract businesses to East Bethel. It is a work in progress."

Moegerle, "What are you hearing from the finance committee? They have been meeting."  
Lawrence, "The Fire Department is losing some funding with their SAFER Grant. We will have to shore up as much of that as possible through the City. This grant ran for three years and now it is coming to an end and it is not being reestablished. The SAFER Grant essentially helps the fire fighters become more efficient in their jobs with training, and equipment and such." Chief DuCharme, "We have been operating under a SAFER Grant. Three years ago FEMA awarded East Bethel a \$365,000 grant for recruitment, retention and education for fire fighters. SAFER stands for Staffing Adequate Fire and Rescue. This is the fourth year of the program. There has been discussion of what parts of the SAFER Grant do we need to continue. We know we need to continue training because we need to keep our certifications up. But, we are also involved in another SAFER Grant with Anoka County Fire Departments. We recently brought on five new fire fighters that will fall under that grant and their turn out gear is paid for, their first round of education is paid for, and I just found out today that those going on to be EMTs that is going to be paid for. And, this grant goes on for another three years. It is about \$1,100,000."

Lawrence, "In regards to the budget, we are looking at the money we will be losing on the first SAFER Grant. Of course, we all know we had a pretty hard winter for snow, and we went through supplies in our Public Works Department, our salt is pretty much gone. So there are things we are going to need to spend money on to get these supplies caught back up on."  
DeRoche, "Certain services the City has to have, Police Fire and Public Works. I have been on the finance committee for three years. It is definitely an education and if anybody thinks they have an idea of what they would like to see cut; I am more than welcome to listen. The thing is what are you going to cut? Police, fire, public utilities? As far as staff goes, we are pretty lean. And, we have things coming up that we have to consider that we have to have the money for. I am pretty frugal, and I think everyone else up here is too and we are aware of the fact that we just can't be out spending money anywhere and doing anything we want. Whatever we have expenditures on, it has got to be accountable. And, we have to make sure we are not going to be taxing the residents any more than we have to. I am a firm believer if you don't have the money then don't spend it. I know we have to spend some money to move ahead, but I think the ideas have to be real prudent."

Lawrence, "We were talking about the Fire Department and one of their main functions is the EMT service they provide. This is a huge asset to the city; they are the first responder to the people in the City. If you are hurt they come. And we have real good people on our squad."  
Moegerle, "One of the things I would be interested to hear from the crowd is what do you think about charging for ambulance services? Because right now 60% of the runs the Fire Department does are EMT related. The question is, 'There are some ways we could charge for those services. How do we get through these financial times?' What do you think about that idea? Chief DuCharme can you address this?" Chief DuCharme, "We ran on 508 calls in 2012 a little lower than the past year. 60% of those calls were EMS, Emergency Medical Services related. To clarify, the Fire Department does not transport, we don't run an ambulance service. The ambulance service comes from Allina and that is set up by the State of Minnesota, by district. We also use Allina for our medical training/instruction. What the Council has asked to look at is, is there a way to collect fees for going on medical calls. Currently we have been charging fees for going on car accidents and utility emergencies. It is one thing to charge for them, but the collection piece is somewhat difficult. I would think if we decide to go with the collection side of this, we would need to look at going with a third party for collection of those fees. I can't tell what the projection would be for revenues. And

there are some state statutes that we have to be careful for what we charge for EMS runs. I think the most we could charge is between \$50-\$75 per run. I am not 100% sure on this. Question might come up, 'Do other cities charge for this?' The answer is yes and no. Council and staff understand this could be quite controversial."

Bruce Roles of 21853 Quincy Street NE,"I have a litany of things I could cover, but I will settle for the stupid idea of the ridiculous water park. And the waste of time and effort at the City. Council Member Koller, I am so disappointed in you. You had a chance to stop the thing and you decided to vote for it. And it is guys like you that take positions like that, 'Well, what is one more step?' Next thing you know we have a ton of money spent and we are pursuing something that is just ridiculous and you could have stopped it. Now we are going to go burn up more time. Bob just talked about we are pretty lean. Staff is pretty lean and we have plenty of work to do and we are off chasing stupid pipe dreams like the water park, when there is one right down the road. And a pretty darn good one on top of it. East Bethel is not going to be a water park destination. Let's go find legitimate, real, businesses. And when people oppose your opinion (Moegerle) you need to quit stomping on them and listen to them. You are uncompromising in your approach with anybody. As soon as anybody opposes you, you berate them until they come along with your view. You can say, 'No. I watch it, I listen to it, I read it.' But, we had an opportunity here to stop what has become a ridiculous effort with this water park and now we are going to go spend some more money and some more time that could have been spent pursuing stuff in a much better direction and for more legitimate businesses. Forty people out of thousands said in some casual conversation, or some sort of a survey that they are interested in a water park. And the sampling you had out of the population is so miniscule; it is hardly worth even talking about. It should have been dismissed right there. But, you had to keep it alive and now we are pursuing it. That is the most recent issue that has gotten under my skin. Have the guts the next time to vote the way you should have this time and let's go pursue legitimate businesses. Thank you."

Lawrence, "I would be encouraged to ask, 'What you would like us to be looking for?' It is hard to find people to tell us what they would like to see." Roles, "I understand that. But, looking for a water park is not the right thing. I am not in the position to know what businesses are out there moving to the area. But, let's go talk to legitimate businesses. Let's not come up with pipe dreams. We would have a better chance if we were going to do something with a golf course or something. Something legitimate that people might use. But the water park? The infrastructure that has to go into that? The dollars to create it and the return back for something that is as seasonal as it is and then even in the season it is open, the weather fluctuates. It is just not a big revenue generator. And there is one right down the road. If you want to create something that is a big revenue generator, create something that isn't right down the road." Lawrence, "Are you opposed to restaurants?" Roles, "No. That was part of the deal when the East Bethel Theater came in. That was going to bring all kinds of restaurants because people could go to a movie and go to dinner. Let's go get those. We don't need big box stores, let's get legitimate businesses, and employ a bunch of people. Fix your need with the sewer system that we shouldn't have. (We have already beaten the snot out of that). Let's go get some businesses that have a chance to grow and thrive and are year-round businesses and out of that may grow your destination."

Moegerle, "What has been proposed and discussed is a year-round, indoor/outdoor, private (no government monies) water park resort and recreation." Roles, "You spent government monies on trying to create the desire for somebody to come here. And the likelihood that someone is going to come and build a water park here?" Moegerle, "But we have asked the questions. We have a person on the EDA here, John was there last night, and he is not on the

Council.” Roles, “You are not going to change my mind about a water park. That is what you do to these guys, week in and week out.” Moegerle, “I am giving you additional information about the situation; that there are people, developers that have looked at this. The target market for the type of water park that is being discussed is a 200 mile radius. There are plenty of people in that radius that would come here.” Roles, “There are plenty of water parks within 200 miles.” Moegerle, “This is much larger, it would be indoor/outdoor year round.” Roles, “There are those too.” Moegerle, “This would be a private entity.” Roles, “There are those too.” Moegerle, “None of us on the Council or EDA have the type of information that could say, ‘This is what we need or want or can work here.’ And we are trying to find additional information. We had a tax levy on the EDA to fund that kind of development and information gathering so this Council and the EDA can make reasonable decisions. And nobody is going to spend those dollars recklessly or carelessly.”

Roles, “You already spent them recklessly. What are the next four things on your list? Because when that water park dies what are the next four things you are going to go look at with the same vigor as the water park? If you can justify in your mind to go pursue the water park, let’s name four more things you are going to go after with that same vigor and get going on those. Because when that water park dies, you are going to be sitting flat on your hands with nothing else cooking.” Moegerle, “We are working on grocery, infrastructure, light industrial, looking at restaurants and at data centers.” Roles, “And there has been no conversation outside of some of the conversation within the EDA about some of those. The dominant topic is the water park. You spent a ton of time at the last couple Council meetings talking about it. And if Ron would have voted against it, we wouldn’t be talking about it tonight.” Moegerle, “The reason that was discussed then is because that is the one that comes to the top.” Roles, “You had 40 people that voted on it, out of a small sampling of the City that pushed it to the top. So in your mind it is the best thing we got.”

Moegerle “It was more than 25% of the total people on that survey.” Roles, “And the percentage of the population that was in the survey was what, 1 or 2 or 3 percent? It was a small part of the population.” Moegerle, “Many, many people like yourself do not want to state which way we should go.” Roles, “I am telling you to not go after the water park and to go after more legitimate businesses.” Moegerle, “Thank you.” Ronning, “For whatever it is worth, it is not a done deal.” Lawrence, “With the water park issue, we spent very little City money and City staff time going after this issue. I know it is a hot topic for some people they don’t like it. If we send this out to the developer and they say, ‘Okay you are looking for something big like this,’ they may come along and say, ‘We have this that fits your City better.’ We need to generate something with developers and say, ‘East Bethel is moving on stuff, we need find out what it is and we need to find a location where we can put it. Whether it be a water park, motel, hotel, whatever is best. We need the developers to take us serious. It may not be a water park; it probably will be something else. If we don’t start looking, we won’t find anything.’” Ronning, “Other directions some of us would like to see, is real living wage jobs, like Aggressive Hydraulics. Bring some more of that in. When you have jobs, people come for the jobs and services come for the people. I don’t know the answer and I am not going to pretend to know the answer. Tough question, but we need to get more manufacturing or some kind of business that employs the people.”

Lorraine Bonin (resident), “As far as this water park is concerned, when you are looking for ideas and brainstorming you do not say anything is ‘ridiculous’ or ‘wonderful’. You are looking at all ideas and if you don’t pursue all those ideas, you won’t come up with any ideas.” Davis, “We are looking at the businesses that were identified in the marketing study that it said were underserved in this area. Those were grocery facilities, medical facilities, bars and restaurants, light industrial; those are the things we are looking at. These are needs

in East Bethel identified in the survey. They have sound statistical background for them. There are proven there is a niche here in East Bethel and in addition to the water park, these are what staff are looking for. We have sent out fliers and information to 30-40 businesses. We have contacted restaurants and pharmacy people. A couple different grocery people. We have talked to Target, Wal-Mart, Fleet Farm and will not leave any stone unturned in our search for things we think can be successful here.”

Winter, “To follow-up with what Jack has said, the other thing people need to be aware of is, it would be great to have someone come in that has a hundred jobs. That is probably not realistic in terms of what is going to be happening in terms of as far as economic development goes. The largest economic developments that we are going to be able to generate are those very small business owners. Those that start out as a 1 or 2 person shop. Those folks then grow their business. They may not have more than ten or twenty employees ever. But that will be the backbone of what we are going to see. The days of having large manufacturers, they don’t happen anymore. And working with the businesses that are here, will also be a part of it. Also, residential is another area that is an opportunity to economic development.” Davis, “Most of the contacts we get from the State for industrial type of prospects, they are looking for existing buildings. In the 40,000-250,000 square foot range. Occasionally they are looking for land in lieu of buildings. Statistically, most of all new job growth is with small business. That is one of our goals to encourage our existing businesses; they are the backbone of our economic base.”

Mark Bouljon of Tri Oak Circle, Coon Lake, “It seems after listening to all the conversation that one of the things I am not clear on is whether or not the economic development staff here is clear on why people come here for any reason? Are we sure we know what the economic studies, the surveys tell us? That we know reliably why people come here to live? Because actually tonight I haven’t heard it. Perhaps, I am biased. I didn’t come to East Bethel for big white boxes. I didn’t come to East Bethel for four lane highways. I didn’t come to East Bethel for a job. I came to East Bethel because at the time it seemed like a quiet relatively rural place to be. I came from Little Canada, and if I was going to give up the conveniences of big stores and such, I would get something in return. Over the last ten years I have been active as I can be. I have seen a lot of churn. We seem less focused on accepting who we are and making sure we pay our bills and not spend too little. You talked about we don’t want to spend too much, we wanted to be sure not to overtax ourselves. But, I can tell you there will be a lot of people unhappy when a house burns down. So my sense is that, when I came here, I came with the expectation that I would pay whatever taxes were necessary to maintain the City services that assured a civilized and safe sort of existence. I wasn’t looking for the miracle of outside development, or employers coming in to somehow pay my way. I am not telling you go ahead and raise my taxes, because I don’t care. I pay more this year for everything than I did last year, and that has been true for the last three years. And over a ten year period it is astonishing. So why the cost of City government shouldn’t go up reasonably, is beyond me. Of course it should if you are going to provide the level of service that provides us with the civilized place to live that we came here for. So when we go away tonight, don’t go away thinking, ‘That guy said it is okay to raise taxes.’ That is not what I am saying. Taxes are too high when people don’t see the perceived value and too low when the Fire Department didn’t see the house burn down. Take care of what we have, with an eye towards making it more attractive and then sell that, then there will be a bigger base for the guy that wants to run a restaurant and he will have a fighting chance to have enough people to come to him regularly. But, you can’t get the restaurant first in a small population, it doesn’t happen. So if you focus on what the community has to offer and create an identity around that, make that appealing, including to the people that live here, then perhaps the identity will

fall in place. I don't think you can force economic development. It has to be a magnet; it can't be forced collector place."

Lawrence, "One of the big issues we have coming up is some big bills for sewer and water project. And if we can't get some development in, we will have to raise taxes." Bouljon, "And that will be a sad time for all of us. But, that project got stuck in a huge economic collapse, not of our doing. We have to live with our decisions, look at it and say, 'Well it is not so good for me that I have to pay more taxes, but take the larger view. It is good for the community; it is good for the long term.' And it is good for the long term what we are trying to do, which is develop and grow. Taxes aren't good or bad. They are the price of civilization." Lawrence, "We are looking for businesses to come to East Bethel, to utilize the small section of growth. Will it cover the liability? Probably not, but it will soften the blow." Bouljon, "Keep clearly focused on who we are and what we want to be. Keep the water and sewer system as an ace in the hole. If we can agree on that, then I can be rest assured that we are looking at the long term and not driving ourselves nuts looking at the little stuff now." Lawrence, "That is pretty much how I see it; basically what we are trying to do is get our name out there. Let people know that we are open for business, that we have some facilities that you may not have realized we had before. And that is an important part of marketing, we need to put that forward."

John Landwehr, "I am on the EDA. I don't think anyone is trying to change who and what the City is. Hopefully enhance it a little bit. But, as we have talked about there is an asset that we have and pretty small area of the City that can be developed, realistically that can have any major business on it. The rest will stay the way it is, pretty much a nice residential that allows us to live in the country. I think the biggest challenge for the EDA is getting ideas back from people and hopefully not missing the mark. I have only done it for a few months. If you have ideas and thoughts, or you know people that have thoughts that you would like to have chased down, certainly Colleen could be contacted to do it and others will too."

Adjourn

**DeRoche made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Ronning seconded; all in favor, motion carries.**

Attest:

Wendy Warren  
Deputy City Clerk