



**Economic Development Authority
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 21, 2024
4:00 PM**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Member Furlong called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

EDA Members

John Monge, President/Mayor
Josef Matthews, Vice-President
Terry Furlong
Tim Cole, Council Representative

Staff/Ex-Officio Members

Brian Frandle, Executive Director
Brandy Howe, Assistant Treasurer
Brett Garry, Business Association Representative
Chris Cherne, EDA Secretary

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Furlong requested a motion to adopt the agenda.
M/Cole, S/Monge.
Motion carried 4-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of November 14, 2023 Minutes

Furlong requested a motion to approve the November 14, 2023 meeting minutes.
M/Monge, S/Matthews.
Motion carried 4-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No public comments.

VI. EDA DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Election of 2024 Officers

Furlong called for nominations for President and Vice-President.

On motion by Cole, seconded by Monge to elect John Monge as the 2024 President and Josef Matthews as the 2024 Vice-President of the Economic Development Authority.
Motion carried 4-0.

The remaining office positions will be filled once the vacant seats on the EDA are filled.

B. Amending the Membership of the Economic Development Authority

Howe provided the staff report regarding amending the membership of the Economic Development Authority to be the members of the City Council and the creation of a new Economic Development Commission (EDC).

Furlong stated this conversation started when Dew ended his term with the Economic Development Authority in 2023. Furlong stated his only concern is that the EDA has been an effective body since its creation in 2009 is not sure why it needs to be changed. The City Council has always been the approving body for EDA decisions. Monge replied that part of the reason is that there isn't a huge difference between the EDA and EDC. Furlong stated maybe the vacant EDA seats should be filled before the group makes a recommendation.

Matthews stated that when the Authority was implemented in 2009, there was an exceptionally strong EDA that got a lot done. Some of the key members of the EDA throughout its history are no longer members. Whatever direction the group decides, there needs to be a cheerleader for the EDA moving forward. Cole agreed with Matthews and stated the group needs a strong advocate that brings objectives to the City. There is a phenomenal opportunity with new residents moving in; someone needs to assist in bringing businesses into the City.

The EDA will meet again on April 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM and advertise quarterly meetings for applicants. Cole recommended listing all projects that the EDA was previously working on for their next meeting and include discussion about a third-party consultant on the meeting agenda.

C. Façade Improvement Program

Howe presented the proposed Façade Improvement Program with the recommended changes. The remaining issue is to determine the two-tier grant numbers. The smaller grants would have no match requirement and the larger grants would have a match requirement. Howe asked for direction on the program as it relates to the EDA budget. Cole recommended granting a certain capped amount of dollars per award. Matthews stated that it is important to advertise this properly but to first consider the finances and recommended the Finance Director provide a presentation at the next meeting.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. 2023 Treasurer's Report

Howe provided the 2023 Treasurer's Report.

VIII. UPDATES

A. Staff Updates

There were no updates.

B. EDA Member Updates

There were no updates.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Furlong requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
M/Cole, S/Matthews to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 PM.
Motion carried 4-0.

The next regularly scheduled Economic Development Authority meeting is Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 3:00 PM.

Members, please notify any planned absences to:

Chris Cherne, EDA Secretary