MEETING NOTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OCTOBER 29, 2019
4:30 PM

North St. Paul City Hall – Sandberg Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Robert Dew, Chair
Richard McNamara, Vice Chair - absent
Tom Schifsky
Don Jensen, Treasurer
Terry Furlong, Council Representative
Scott Thorsen, Council Representative
Scott Duddeck, Executive Director

Staff/Guest: Mary Mills, Acting Secretary; Brett Garry, Garry Insurancenter

III. ADOPT AGENDA

The agenda topics were adopted by unanimous consent. There was no formal agenda. See attached posting notice.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. There were no items for approval.

V. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Note: This is a courtesy extended to persons wishing to address the Authority concerning issues that are not on the agenda. This discussion will be limited to 15 minutes.
No members of the public were in attendance at this meeting.

VI. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

a. <u>BP Gas Station location</u>

The building and property located at Highways 36 and 120, formerly the CP Gas Station, has been vacant for years and is currently for sale. The tanks have been removed and the building boarded up. The City has received closure on site for the tank removal leaks. The owner paid $475,000 and the City is willing to negotiate purchase of the property. This location is the gateway to the City and is currently an eyesore. MnDOT may have future potential right-of-way interests. The consensus of the group was to research all options, and it makes sense for the city to own it and remove existing blight and help control future project speed.

On motion by Scott Thorsen, seconded by Don Jensen, with all present voting aye, to recommend that staff approach the owner of the property and offer a minimum amount down with a 5 year payment plan on the remainder of the balance.

b. Lillie Suburban Newspaper building

The Lillie Suburban newspaper has closed all of its branches. The building in North St. Paul is in very rough shape, and located in the heart of 7th Avenue downtown. The group agreed that it would not be the time to pursue purchasing of the building, that a private investor would most likely come into play. The market needs to do what it's going to do and the City should wait and see what happens. When the other developments are complete and stabilizes, then we can look at it.

c. Community Center building

Kokoro Volleyball, current renters in the former Community Center have expressed an interest in the purchase of the location. The Ramsey County Library lease would be honored as is. It was the EDA's consensus to sell the building. Staff will remain in contact with Kokoro.

VII. The November 12, 2019 regular EDA meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to December 10, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

It was also agreed to change the official meeting start time of the EDA from 4:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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