

**BELLE PLAINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine Economic Development Authority met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2009 in the Government Center, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN. President Lisa Fahey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Phil Fischer, Troy Witt, Dawn Underferth, Jim Lange and Gary Crosby present. Commissioner Rick Krant arrived at 5:20 p.m. Also present was Executive Director Trisha Rosenfeld.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Commissioner Underferth, second by Commissioner Witt, to approve the agenda as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. August 10, 2009 Regular Session.

MOTION by Commissioner Crosby, second by Commissioner Lange, to approve the August 10, 2009 Regular Session minutes as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. TREASURERS REPORT. 4.1. Approval of Bills.

MOTION by Commissioner Fischer, second by Commissioner Witt, to approve the payment of bills as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS.

5.1. Review of Financial Incentive Programs.

President Fahey referenced a memo dated September 14, 2009 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding the status of the EDA financial incentive programs.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that she has received an inquiry about the TCCCF loan program and provided the information accordingly.

5.2. Economic Development Plan Update.

President Fahey referenced a memo dated September 14, 2009 from Community Development Director Rosenfeld regarding the Economic Development Plan.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the economic development plan was approved by the City Council on August 17, 2009 contingent upon budget approval. Council and staff are still currently working on finalizing the 2010 budget. The City Council conducts monthly workshops on the fourth Monday of every month at 6:00 pm. At the September 28, 2009 workshop, staff will be providing an overview of components for a small area plan. This is being done in order to provide additional understanding and allow for questions. EDA members are encouraged to attend as well. Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that she has started to delineate work items in the economic development plan that do not have a financial impact.

Commissioner Lange explained that strong support by the EDA is needed at the Council level as at least one Councilmember is opposed to the activities of the EDA. Community Development Director Rosenfeld suggested that staff prepare information regarding the role of the EDA. Commissioner Lange concurred. The Commissioners noted the successful programs administered by the EDA: façade improvement grant, Chamber/EDA awards banquet, rental incentive program, billboard, incubator space, advertising

sheet in the monthly utility billing, Belle Plaine clinic, post office, Gansen building, Cardinal Ridge Apartments and E-H building to name a few. President Fahey suggested that an article in The Bridge include a 20-year look back on the EDA projects. Commissioner Fischer suggested a listing of all businesses that have received benefit from the EDA.

Commissioner Krant arrived at 5:20 p.m.

Commissioners are to email Community Development Director Rosenfeld with any further ideas and suggestions in the promotion of the EDA activities.

5.3. Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Fischer asked for a status on Valley Business Park RLF criteria. Community Development Director Rosenfeld has been in contact with Erik Johnson, owner. He has not provided the information at this time.

Commissioner Crosby commented on the success of the new KwikTrip convenience store and fuel station. Commissioner Krant commented that the success of this business can be at the expense of other local businesses. Commissioner Lange requested that MnDOT monitor the traffic in the area as it is difficult for motorists to exit eastbound from Kwik Trip. Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that MnDOT will be reviewing the lane configuration on East Main Street.

Commissioner Crosby inquired about adding signage along Highway 169 for the Belle Plaine businesses. Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that signage is controlled by MnDOT. The directional signage is part of the Economic Development Plan and staff is working on a comprehensive signage plan.

Commissioner Lange inquired about the status of entrance signs. Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that she is obtaining cost estimates from Kasota Stone, St. Peter, MN, for entrance signs.

Commissioner Lange commented that the new round-about being constructed on the west side of New Prague on Highway 19 may be an indication that Wal Mart is pursuing a location there.

Commissioner Witt inquired about paved trails on the proposed TH169 south frontage road and noted that lack of a sidewalk on the north frontage road is detrimental. Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained the proposed sidewalk configuration on the south frontage road.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE.

6.1. Next meeting will be Monday, October 12, 2009.

The Commissioners were reminded of the upcoming meeting as listed.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Commissioner Lange, second by Commissioner Crosby, to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings
Recording Secretary