

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, April 2, 2020**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, April 2, 2020 via video conference pursuant to Minn. Stat.13D.021 due to a health pandemic. Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:20 a.m. with Commissioners Gene Kelm, Darren Kern, Steve Young, Josie Schmidt and Don Maslow present. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

Dorn made a motion to approve the agenda. Maslow seconded. MCU

Kelm made a motion to approve the minutes. Maslow seconded. MCU

Shebeck made a motion to approve the financials. Maslow seconded. MCU

Updates:

Hatchery Row:

- Developers have received the housing report they were waiting for and concluded that it was feasible to move forward with the project. Details will come later but they anticipate 12 to 15 housing units with commercial mixed in.
- Still waiting on lab results for the environmental study from the lab.

COVID-19:

- Martin reported that there was a directive from the council for the EDA to focus on the needs of the businesses during the pandemic.
- Martin has been sharing resources with businesses along with creating a weekly flyer that lists those that are still conducting some type of business along with hours and other details. She is also doing a lot of research on the programs that are available and trying to get familiar with them. She is continuing to check on other resources and ideas. Dorn thanked Martin for the work she has done on this. It's greatly appreciated by the businesses.
- The City Council has voted to eliminate late fees and to forgo any utility shut offs for the months of March, April and May.
- Martin suggested starting the process to create an emergency/resiliency fund by requesting donations from the public. This is being done in Perham and also through West Central Initiative. EDA Commissioners liked the idea and Martin will continue to work on this.
- Dorn reported that the bank is doing what they can to assist businesses including working with businesses that need to work through the bank for some of the emergency assistance programs.
- Kern reported that the school is doing fine. They are providing childcare as directed and needed along with delivering school lunches. They are looking for people that may be interested in part-time work. He is also willing to help as needed for the businesses.

Marketing Battle Lake

- On hold for now.

Apprenticeship Program

- Some students have signed up for this spring, but it may need to be a 2020-21 program. Shebeck stated that he may be able to assist students that are interested in learning about franchise agreements.

Housing – How to move forward:

- Still waiting to hear back from Jay Paulson about a joint co-marketing venture.

Other Updates:

- Property south of Hidden Meadows has been sold to a developer – possible townhomes.
- Young reported that the market has slowed a little as people are hesitant to look at property or list their own.
- The 2020 Governor's Fishing Opener in Otter Tail County has been postponed until 2021.

2020 Goals and Priorities:

- Temporary goals may need to be established but long-term goals should be looked at when the pandemic is over. Things may look very different. Establishing a resiliency fund should be added to the list of goals for 2020.

Adjourn at 8:00 a.m.

Valerie J. Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer