

**City of Battle Lake  
Economic Development Authority  
Thursday, August 5, 2020**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday August 5, 2020 with some members participating via video conference pursuant to Minn. Stat.13D.021 due to a health pandemic. Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Gene Kelm, Steve Young, Leigh Shebeck, and Don Maslow present. Absent was Darren Kern and Josie Schmidt. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

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

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

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

Josie Schmidt joined the meeting.

2021 EDA Budget was reviewed with a proposed reduction of \$10,000 transfer from the Liquor Store. Kelm felt the reduction needs to be more as there may be a proposed expansion at the Liquor Store. There is a \$17,000 amount dedicated to Hatchery Row and that could be reduced by another \$10,000 to \$7,000. The rest of the budget also had several reductions. It would be difficult to cut too much out as some of the items would have to get paid from another fund. Dorn made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Council will have to make a final decision on what the Liquor Store transfer might be. Young seconded. With a roll call vote, those in favor included Dorn, Kelm, Schmidt, Young, Maslow and Shebeck with no member voting no. MCU

**Updates:**

**COVID-19:**

- **CARES Act Funding to Businesses** – Applications have been sent to businesses and are due next week before the council meeting. Once we have a total for this portion of the funding, council may decide to do a 2<sup>nd</sup> round.
- **Business Survey** – Commissioners agreed it would be good to hear from businesses on how they have done this year and how the EDA can assist them. Martin will work on a survey for fall distribution.

**Hatchery Row:**

- Continued work on environmental study – borings to be done in a couple of weeks. We hope to get a project plan from the developer very shortly.

**Bethel Church:**

- A member of the church has offered to construct a building just north of the LACC at the former Youth Center site. Dorn said he has heard from others that the congregation is still considering the purchase of the LACC. Another commissioner said he had heard the opposite, but it was decided that a conversation with the LACC Board may be a good idea. How can the EDA assist them? Shebeck will reach out to them and schedule a meeting that might consist of a few EDA members with some of their board members.

**Otter Tail County Community Development Agency:** Martin reported on the meeting yesterday with the following details:

- Minutes from August meetings
- Business applications for CARES act funding should be available now. Funds up to \$10,000 are available to qualified businesses.
- Nonprofit applications will be ready in the next few days. They can also apply for up to \$10,000.

**Other Updates/Discussion Items:**

- Good Sam projects – sounds like most of them are still on hold. It would be a good idea to ask Casey Ward if he would be interested in attending an EDA meeting.
- The Ice Fishing Derby has already been cancelled for next year.
- Discussion on how business might look next year especially with the changes to school sports. How will the business climate look this winter? Martin will set up a meeting with the bars and restaurants to see what the EDA can do to help over the upcoming months, especially winter.

Adjourn at 8:18 a.m.

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