

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, October 12, 2023**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. with Rich Bullard, Sean Belmont, Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, Marjorie Quammen and Josie Thomopolous present. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer along with Reba Gilliland, Art Advisory Committee Representative.

Nudell made a motion to approve the agenda. Bullard seconded. MCU
Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Quammen seconded. MCU
Nudell made a motion to approve the financials. Belmont seconded. MCU

Hatchery Row

- Discussion on the LACC's decision to not move to the Hatchery. Commissioners felt this was a loss to the community. The LACC would have provided additional financial impacts to the other businesses. The Commissioners voiced their disappointment in the Council's decision not to fund the LACC at a higher level and respectfully would like them to reconsider their decision. The Commissioners felt a community space provides a strong value to the community. The LACC also provides a Chamber of Commerce-type service that is not being done by other entities. Nudell made a motion to make a \$10,000 yearly commitment to the LACC, should they move to the Hatchery, and to request the Council reconsider their decision and to consider funding them at a higher level. Dorn seconded with Quammen and Bullard abstaining. Motion carried. Martin will contact the LACC to see if there is interest in reconsidering their decision. If so, the EDA will approach the council in November to discuss further.
- Martin reported that the contaminated soil has been removed from the City farm to a disposal site.

School Updates

- Rob Nudell reported on the school homecoming parade which was held on October 6th. He also reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming election for the bond referendum with early voting on Saturday, November 4th, and the election on November 7th. Nudell also informed the commissioners that he has been in contact with Shelby Troisdahl who will soon be opening up a fitness center at the Hatchery. He wanted Troisdahl to know that the school has no interest in being in competition with what they plan to do. Troisdahl agreed that they would be providing different services. Dorn commended the school on the information sent out regarding the bond referendum. It was thorough and well-written.

Business Priorities

- Commissioners Belmont, Young, Dorn and Thomopolous would be willing to call or visit businesses in person to do a survey similar to what has been done in the past. Martin will prepare sample questions for review at the next meeting.
- Minutes from the Breakfast and Brainstorming session were shared with Commissioners.
- Goals and priorities will be reviewed next month.

Other Updates:

- Bullard wanted to mention the good work the City staff also does along with the work the LACC does to promote the community.
- English Springer trials will be held this weekend at the Wasson farm along with the West Battle Lake Public access in town.

The next EDA meeting was changed to Thursday, November 9, 2023. The Otter Tail County CDA Housing Summit will be held on November 16th at Thumper Pond. Martin will send information to the Commissioners.

Adjourn at 8:10 a.m.

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