

**OSSEO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2017**

1. ROLL CALL

President Todd Woods called the regular meeting of the Osseo Economic Development Authority to order at 6:00 p.m., Monday, September 11, 2017.

Members present: Juliana Hultstrom, Harold E. Johnson, Duane Poppe, Mark Schulz, Larry Stelmach, and Todd Woods.

Members absent: Dan LaRouche.

Staff present: Executive Director Riley Grams, City Planner Nancy Abts, Finance Officer Teri Portinen, and City Attorney Mary Tietjen.

Others present: Brian Ross.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Johnson requested Accounts Payable be approved after New Business.

A motion was made by Stelmach, seconded by Schulz, to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion carried 6-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 14, 2017

A motion was made by Hultstrom, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes of August 14, 2017, as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

4. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR – None.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

7. OLD BUSINESS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION FROM BRIAN ROSS, GREAT PLANS INSTITUTE

Executive Director Riley Grams stated Brian Ross is a Senior Program Director with the Great Plains Institute. He leads the Institute's work to accelerate the development of solar energy as a self-sustaining energy industry, managing technical and policy programs to help local governments, institutions, and businesses implement sustainable practices for renewable energy. Mr. Ross currently works in four Midwestern states to transform local government policies and regulatory standards to accommodate solar energy development. Previous to joining the Great Plains Institute, he was a Principal at CR Planning, facilitating local decision-

making and implementation efforts for sustainable development outcomes. He managed the Minneapolis Saint Paul Solar Cities Program and helped cities across the State incorporate sustainable energy practices into zoning and local programs through the Minnesota Solar Challenge program. Mr. Ross has also worked extensively in energy and utility regulation, serving as an expert witness in cost of service and rate design, energy efficiency and renewables, fuel cost reconciliations, and integrated resource planning.

Grams explained the Great Plains Institute works in the area of energy efficiency, energy infrastructure, fossil energy, International collaboration, transportation, renewable energy, and sustainable communities. It was noted Mr. Ross was on hand to give a presentation to the EDA on how they can assist in redevelopment.

Brian Ross, Great Plains Institute, provided a presentation on energy. He commented on the regional and local work completed by Great Plains, noting his company sponsored the GreenStep program. He described how energy markets were changing and how this could impact economic development. He then reviewed the Local Government Energy Planning Template Workbook with the EDA. He commented on local and community goals that could be set in order to reduce energy use, along with strategies that could be followed in order to reach these environmental goals. He provided further comment on what energy in a sustainable community looks like and discussed how clean energy jobs were on the rise.

Mr. Ross discussed the amount the City of Osseo spends on electricity each year and how rooftop solar energy could assist with this. He explained how the City could work to explore its solar energy resources. He reported the City was required to include solar planning within its Comprehensive Plan. Further discussion ensued regarding the benefits to local communities of solar and wind energies. Lastly, he encouraged the EDA to consider adding goals within the Comprehensive Plan that would assist the City in reaching its energy efficiency goals.

Woods explained Osseo's density could not grow out, but rather could only go up. Mr. Ross understood this to be the case and anticipated Osseo could address population growth through growing up. He stated Osseo could work to develop solar rooftop resources where it does not come into conflict with the City's density goals.

Stelmach asked how far solar technology had come in becoming more efficient. Mr. Ross stated the solar panels were now 25% efficient compared to past panels that were only 12% efficient. He explained the cost of solar technology was going down and the racking systems were improved.

Stelmach questioned how long solar panels would last. Mr. Ross reported solar panels had a 25-year life expectancy.

Stelmach inquired how many panels would have to be installed in order to receive a return on the investment. Mr. Ross estimated an economic payback would be received for a system that was at least 200 square feet in size.

Johnson thanked Mr. Ross for his presentation. He described the rooftop solar units that were being discussed by the City of Brooklyn Park for its municipal buildings.

Woods thanked Mr. Ross for his time this evening. Mr. Ross stated he was available to the EDA if they had any further comments or questions.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Grams presented the EDA Accounts Payable listing.

Johnson requested further information on the former Lubbe Dental invoice for payment of 2015 property taxes. Teri Portinen provided the EDA with a detailed explanation on the personal property tax situation surrounding the Lubbe Dental property.

Johnson stated he supported the City paying the personal property taxes for this property.

Woods thanked staff for researching this item so diligently on behalf of the EDA.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Poppe, to approve the Accounts Payable. The motion failed on a 3-3 vote (Hultstrom, Schulz, and Stelmach opposed).

Hultstrom asked if the City had any recourse with the County given the wording they elected to use in their billing. City Attorney Mary Tietjen stated the County had not changed its wording, and it was confusing. She explained a lot of work had been done behind the scenes on this matter and stated she was not prepared to offer the EDA a solution.

Schulz expressed frustration that staff was not on the same page on this issue. He stated he had strong feelings about the fact the City Attorney was not prepared to address this matter, which was completely not her fault. He believed the City Attorney should never be caught off guard.

A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Stelmach, to approve the Accounts Payable, removing the Hennepin County property tax payment of \$6,510.74.

Johnson reviewed the timeline proposed by the County and noted a lien could be filed.

The motion carried 5-1 (Johnson opposed).

9. REPORTS OR COMMENTS: Executive Director, President, Members

Stelmach thanked all of the residents that were able to attend Lions Roar festivities.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Schulz, seconded by Hultstrom, to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.