

**OSSEO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2020**

1. ROLL CALL

President Poppe called the regular meeting of the Osseo Economic Development Authority to order at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2020.

Members present: Teresa Aho, Deanna Burke, Harold E. Johnson, Sherry Murdock, Duane Poppe, Mark Schulz, and Larry Stelmach.

Members absent: None.

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

Others present: Dawn Sperr, Kenny Nelson, and James Kelly.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Stelmach, seconded by Burke, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2020

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Murdock, to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020, as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

4. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Kenny Nelson, 509 3rd Avenue NE, asked that the EDA provide the public with a presentation on TIF Districts. He believed this would be valuable information for the public.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Executive Director Riley Grams presented the EDA Accounts Payable listing.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Stelmach, to approve the Accounts Payable. The motion carried 7-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON FEBRUARY 27 EDA BUSINESS BREAKFAST EVENT

City Planner Nancy Abts stated the first EDA Business Forum was held on Thursday, February 27. There were 34 total attendees including representatives of businesses in the Central

Business District as well as along County Road 81 and Jefferson Highway. City department heads as well as members of the EDA, City Council, and Planning Commission also attended.

Abts explained the program included introductions of all participants, followed by a brief overview of the EDA and its history and mission. Attendees were asked to weigh in on Osseo business needs and suggestions for future events. Attendees also received copies of the 2020 Business Survey.

Abts reported the event was well received by attendees. Many expressed interest in participating in future business forums. Suggestions included hosting forums at different business locations around town. Several respondents requested additional training and coordination on business social media efforts. Others discussed planned improvements to their buildings, including façade renovations.

Johnson thanked staff for their efforts to plan this event and stated he was pleased by the number of business owners that were in attendance. It was his hope personal contacts would be made prior to the next business breakfast and that the attendance for the next event would be even higher.

Burke indicated she appreciated the great discussion that was held at her table and stated she looked forward to the next business breakfast event.

Poppe agreed, stating he was pleased by the turnout for this first event and looked forward to the next event.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. I-94 WEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTATION (Dawn Sperr, President)

Grams stated the EDA requested staff arrange a presentation from the I-94 West Chamber of Commerce to learn more about the organization and benefits they can provide to Osseo, as well as businesses in and around the Osseo area. He noted Dawn Sperr, President of the I-94 West Chamber of Commerce, was present to provide insight and information to the EDA about the organization.

Dawn Sperr, President of the I-94 West Chamber of Commerce, introduced herself to the EDA and discussed the work being completed by the I-94 West Chamber of Commerce. She explained in December 2018 the North Hennepin Area Chamber of Commerce approached her to take on its membership as this group was going to dissolve. She reported 73 members have since joined the I-94 West Chamber of Commerce. She reviewed the mission of the Chamber, which was to promote partnerships between businesses, government, and community, providing information and resources, with the goal of creating a positive environment for the I-94 West communities. The vision and the core values for the Chamber was also discussed. She commented on how she was shifting marketing efforts to social media versus print. She stated the Chamber would be launching a new website on Wednesday, March 11. The benefits of being a member of the Chamber were described, along with the promotions the Chamber conducts each year for its members. She commented on the great work being done by the Chamber and asked for comments or questions.

Johnson stated he was a member of the North Hennepin Area Chamber while he owned a business and asked if the I-94 West Chamber visited with new businesses. Ms. Sperr reported

the Chamber had ambassadors that visited with new business owners and these ambassadors encourage new business owners to become a member of the Chamber. She said she enjoys working with cities and how she was working to raise the bar.

Stelmach questioned the best direct value for the City of Osseo that the Chamber offers. Ms. Sperr stated this would be the support and relationship building the Chamber would offer to Osseo businesses.

Poppe thanked Ms. Sperr for her presentation and for her work in the community.

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

Grams stated he was pleased by the attendance at the EDA Business Breakfast. He thanked Abts for her efforts planning this event. He indicated he was looking forward to the next EDA Business Breakfast.

Burke explained she really enjoyed attending the Business Breakfast and thanked staff for putting on this event.

Murdock agreed and stated it was great to meet the local business owners that were in attendance.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Murdock, seconded by Burke, to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. The motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial