

**OSSEO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2022**

1. ROLL CALL

Vice President Stelmach called the regular meeting of the Osseo Economic Development Authority to order at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 14, 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

Members present: Teresa Aho, Deanna Burke, Harold E. Johnson, Larry Stelmach, and Alicia Vickerman.

Members absent: Duane Poppe and Sherry Murdock.

Staff present: Executive Director Riley Grams and City Attorney Mary Tietjen.

Others present: Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Lunde.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vickerman, seconded by Aho, to approve the Agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 5-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 14, 2022

A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes of February 14, 2022, as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 5-0.

4. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR – None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Grams presented the EDA Accounts Payable listing.

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Aho, to approve the Accounts Payable. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 5-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. HENNEPIN COUNTY DISTRICT 1 2021 SUMMARY

Commissioner Lunde discussed County related projects, including news related to Hennepin County, updates on various County programs, highlighting programs from area communities, updates on the METRO Blue Line Extension project, public safety updates, and updated Hennepin County grant opportunities. He discussed how the County has survived COVID and was now working on opening back up. He commented on how the County allocated its ARP funds outside of the County's budget to assist those struggling in the community, those in need of mental health assistance, while also helping those in need of justice.

Commissioner Lunde described the driveway meetings that were held last year and noted he would be holding this style of meeting again this year and the focus would be on public safety. He then commented on the County's organics recycling program and noted compost would be available to the public in the future. He reported there would be no smell coming from the digester, which was always a concern to the public.

Johnson questioned when the organics recycling site would be constructed. Commissioner Lunde anticipated preliminary construction would begin later this fall.

Aho asked if there would be a fee for dropping off organics. Commissioner Lunde stated he did not believe there would be a fee, but noted the County was still working through all the details.

Johnson inquired if the burning plant in Minneapolis would continue to operate. Commissioner Lunde reported it was his understanding this would remain operational until there was another solution available to the County. He indicated 80% of the County's waste originated out of Minneapolis and he did not see a reason to bring this waste out into the suburbs.

Commissioner Lunde discussed how challenging this summer would be for public safety. He commented on the funding that has been put towards car jackings and auto thefts. He noted he chairs the Public Safety Committee for the County and explained this topic was of great importance to him. He reported grants would be available to local churches this summer to assist with keeping teens and youth busy. In addition, grants were being considered that would allow youth to work alongside local entrepreneurs.

Johnson requested further information regarding the Blue Line Corridor extension. Commissioner Lunde provided the EDA with an update on the Blue Line and discussed potential ridership. He indicated the last cost analysis for this project was completed in 2015 and noted updated numbers would be completed in 2023, along with the environmental process, with construction beginning in 2024 or 2025.

Vickerman thanked Commissioner Lunde for his presentation. She stated she served on the Blue Line Corridor Committee and commented further on how engaged business owners have been that were located on the Blue Line Corridor.

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATES

Grams updated the EDA on the Hennepin County Business District Initiative Program stating the BDI grant for Osseo was approved late last year. It took a little while to get all the contracts signed and all the official documents finalized, but by early February Community Management Coordinator Amerman was able to meet with the consultants on the Business District Initiative to discuss next steps. Those partners are Dave Kiser at CCX, and Jenny Edstrom at Little Box Social out of Robbinsdale. As background, the team at CCX will be working with businesses in the Central Avenue corridor to create 1–2-minute highlight videos for businesses to use as promotional materials. These videos will be owned by the business owners so they can use them wherever and however they wish. The CCX team will also be working to create a slightly longer video highlighting the corridor, and this video will be for the City itself to use. Little Box Social will be working with those same companies to increase their digital presence, both in social media and on their individual websites. They will also be reaching out to the administrators of Osseo-centric social media groups to see if they can support the work already being done there.

Grams commented that currently, the two organizations are in the process of familiarizing themselves with each of the nearly 40 businesses included in the grant application. This process can take a little bit, as each business has different needs, and is slightly slowed down because there has been some turnover in Central Avenue businesses since the grant application discussed and submitted roughly 12 months ago. In the weeks since Amerman met with CCX and Little Box Social, and they have begun meeting directly with each other to coordinate their work. The hope is that this streamlines their efforts and cuts down on any confusion on the part of business owners when they're contacted. The week of March 14, Amerman will be meeting with Edstrom and Kiser to go over the deliverables they will be producing and to get an update on the expected timeline. The goal being to capture video of the city and businesses once the weather has improved and summer foot traffic begins. The longer-term goal being to have these promotional efforts complete by the end of summer. The funds from the grant must be spent in 2022, so there's quite a bit of time before the end of the year, but the hope is to get this done sooner if possible.

Grams stated as part of the 2022 City budget, the Council approved funds to conduct staff and elected official communication style training in 2022. One of the best local consultants is Dr. Richard Fursman, who owns Hue Life Insights Discovery based out of St. Louis Park. Dr. Fursman uses the Insights Discovery assessment as a tool with clients during leadership development, team building, facilitation, and other various consulting projects. In addition, Insights Discovery can be used independently to help individuals within a team to build their self-awareness and how to better communicate with each other. The training can take anywhere from a few hours to a half day, all the way up to a full day event. Grams would expect that all full-time Staff would be included, along with all elected officials (City Council members, Economic Development Authority members and Planning Commission members).

The Council opted to delay the training event until COVID-19 numbers were reduced to a much safer point that the entire group could meet in person. These types of training and team building tend to be more impactful in-person rather than virtually. He expected that the City will resume in-person meetings very soon, and at that point a date/time to conduct the training could be determined.

Grams reported EDA Commissioner Sherry Murdock has submitted her resignation from the EDA. Sherry joined the EDA a number of years ago as an interested and active resident in the community. In her resignation letter, Sherry mentions that she is moving on to the next phase of her life. It has been a great pleasure to work with Sherry over the years and Grams stated he is very thankful for her dedication to improving the community. With Sherry's resignation, there is an opening on the EDA. The open position's term ends December 31, 2025. Any Osseo resident or business owner is eligible to serve on the EDA. It was noted Staff will publicize the open position immediately with the hopes of receiving letters of interest soon.

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

Johnson stated he was happy to be back. He thanked the EDA members for their thoughts and prayers.

Aho commented she was sorry to see Commissioner Murdock leaving the EDA. She wished Sherry all the best in the future and thanked her for her service to the City.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Aho, to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial