

**BIG LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Doug Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present: Richard Backlund, Raeanne Danielowski, Jim Dickinson, Dave Gast, Doug Hayes, Mike Hayes, Chuck Heitz, Jerry Parks and Norm Leslie.  
Commissioners absent: Jim Dickinson and Jerry Parks.

Also present: Community Development Director Jim Thares, City Administrator Scott Johnson and City Planner Leslie Dingmann.

**3. ADOPT AGENDA**

Commissioner Heitz motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Danielowski, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

**4. APPROVE BLEDA MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 14, 2011**

Commissioner Danielowski motioned to approve the March 14, 2011 BLEDA minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Backlund, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

**5. JOINT CITY/TOWNSHIP EDA BUSINESS ITEMS**

**5A. BIG LAKE RAIL PARK UPDATE**

Thares stated the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled and staff is working with BNSF officials and MN Dot officials to reschedule a time. Two EDA members are asked to attend the meeting once a new time has been set.

**5B. PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

Dingmann stated the Business Investment committee had met with White Bear Clothing. Plans for expansion are now on hold 2-3 years.

The City has received \$822,000 in NSP3 grant funds. Approval of the agreement will go before Council for consideration on Wednesday.

The two City-owned rehab homes are now on the market. Three showings have taken place at 1120 Powell Street.

The TOD Tour is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>. Three City staff / elected officials will be invited to attend the reception. Once the logistics for the day are finalized, they will be provided to attendees.

#### **5C. BLEDA BUDGET**

For information only. Thares stated he will attempt to contact business owners who are delinquent on their payments one more time.

#### **5D. DISCUSSION: 2011 BLEDA GOALS**

It was the consensus of the BLEDA commissioners to adopt the 2011 goals as presented with the addition of prioritizing planning safe walking routes from the Big Lake Station to the Downtown area as well as staff remaining in the conversation with the County on planning for County Road 43 reconstruction.

#### **5E. RETAIL TRENDS- JOINT PRESENTATION BY JAY DEMMA, BONESTROO AND CAROL NIELSEN**

A power point on retail trends was presented by Jay Demma and Carol Nielsen.

#### **6. CITY EDA BUSINESS ITEMS**

##### **6A. TREE AND BRUSH REMOVAL- CO. ROAD 5 AND US HWY. 10 BLEDA SITE**

Thares stated John Bruns has offered to remove the largest trees as wood for sale at zero cost to the City. He is willing to sign a liability waiver stating he will not sue the City should he get hurt while completing the work.

Commissioner D. Hayes motioned to authorize staff to draft and execute an agreement between the BLEDA and John Bruns allowing him to remove/harvest trees- including a liability waiver- on the BLEDA redevelopment site located at county Road 5 and U.S. Highway 10. Seconded by Commissioner Gast, unanimous ayes, motion approved.

##### **6B. CO. ROAD 5 AND U.S. HWY. 10 REDEVELOPMENT SITE - PROPOSED RFP PROCESS/SCHEDULE**

Thares presented the proposed RFP process and schedule for the County Road 5 and Hwy. 10 redevelopment corner. The RFP will be sent to a larger pool of developers this time.

7. **OTHER**

The U.S. Census data was presented showing Big Lake's population is now at 10,060.

8. **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Danielowski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Backlund, unanimous ayes, meeting adjourned.