

BIG LAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Doug Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Raeanne Danielowski, Jim Dickinson, Dave Gast, Greg Green, Doug Hayes, Steve Pflgebraar, and Darek Vetsch. Commissioners absent: Norm Leslie and Mike Wallen.

Also present: Consultant Economic Development Specialist John Uphoff, City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, and Finance Director Deb Wegeleben.

3. ADOPT AGENDA

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

4. APPROVE BLEDA MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2015

Commissioner Dickinson motioned to approve the August 10, 2015 BLEDA minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Vetsch, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

5. BLEDA BUSINESS ITEMS

5A. BLEDA STRATEGIC PLAN

Consultant Economic Development Specialist John Uphoff reviewed the vision and strategies listed in the final draft of the BLEDA Strategic Plan, and indicated that comments have been included from new Superintendent Steve Westerberg of the Big Lake School District. Uphoff highlighted that supporting the school district from a city's perspective is an economic development tool because a well-funded, well-operating and well-known school is a huge driver of growth and success in a community.

Commissioner Dickinson suggested a minor change in language to read Big Lake instead of the City in a paragraph located on page 8.

Commissioner Vetsch motioned to approve the finalized BLEDA Strategic Plan with minor changes in language. Seconded by Commissioner Danielowski, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

5B. PROJECT/PROSPECT STATUS REPORT (REPORTED ON 5B FIRST)

Uphoff provided a brief update on:

- SSI Digital Print Services - SSI Digital Print Services is continuing to expand in Big Lake. Kevin Esselman, VP of Sales & Marketing, is extremely pleased with the hiring process and they were able to hire 12 people. Esselman noted that they are hoping to be operational by the end of October or first part of November.
- The Third Rail Bar and Grill - The Third Rail Bar and Grill is now open in the former Lily's Bar location. When talking to the owner regarding the awning, the owner decided to use the existing awning and just change the name.
- Business Retention and Expansion Program - The City will resume its business retention and expansion visits this month. The goal is to schedule and attend a minimum of two BR&E visits per month.
- MNDEED Site Selector Familiarization Tour – The Big Lake region was hosted by the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation. The three day event allows cities throughout Minnesota to familiarize national site selection consultants with the economic and social drivers in their communities. Big Lake will continue to be represented to the Site Selection Consultant assigned to our region.
- Broadband – The City is continuing to work with Sherburne County and the private sector to explore options for improving internet connectivity for the Industrial Park and will continue to explore options for all interested parties.
- Market Engagement – WSB attended a meeting with reshoring expert Harry Moser. MNDEED is working with Mr. Moser to bring awareness to local manufacturers regarding the reshoring of their operations.
- Solar Garden Lease – SolarStone is continuing work in preparation for the development of a solar garden on the City's former bio-solids site. The Company will present to Sherburne County seeking Conditional Use Permit approval in October.

5C. BLEDA BUDGET

Finance Director Deb Wegeleben reviewed the September 2015 budget and answered questions of the Board.

6. OTHER

City Administrator Wilfahrt discussed the Coal Reliant Communities Workshop that he attended in Colorado. Wilfahrt also mentioned that he will be meeting with a developer regarding a potential Rail Park project. The County released a RFP to complete a feasibility study so they can apply for a Federal EDA Grant.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Danielowski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Vetsch, unanimous ayes, meeting adjourned.