

CITY OF COLUMBUS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
July 10, 2013

The July 10, 2013 Economic Development Authority meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were EDA Commissioners Tracie Wilson, Denny Peterson, Jessie Messina, Bill Krebs; and Jeff Duraine, Executive Director Elizabeth Mursko; Attorney Bill Griffith, Jr., and Assistant Secretary Emmy Robinson.

Also in attendance: Loran Larson, Linda Larson, Mary Preiner, Pat Preiner, and Rick Robinson.

Absent: None.

APPROVAL – MINUTES May 10, 2013

Motion by Peterson to approve the Minutes of the **May 10, 2013** EDA meeting as written. Second by Wilson. Motion carried.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Peterson to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Duraine. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Budget (Handout at Meeting)

A 2014 budget handout was distributed to the EDA. The EDA finances are based on a cash system. The revenue is shown under the Treasurer's report. The EDA Fund is the operations fund and is used for items such as the Columbiz Event. The City Administrator reviewed the budget paperwork at this time. In 2012 99% of the budget was spent. In 2013 the budget was increased slightly, at the 6 month point 47% of the budget has been spent. The line items are the same as last year except they have been alphabetized on the worksheet that was distributed tonight. There are only 2 EDA meetings, one in August and 1 in September, and the August meeting will probably be cancelled so the City budget workshop can be held. The EDA levy is included in the City's levy. Next year the principal payment for the Quad 35 land bond payment schedule will come into effect. The county was contacted regarding the city having an HRA Levy. It is not known at this time if the HRA levy will be granted. The HRA levy is outside the city tax rate shown on tax statements; it is a separate line item.

How will the shortfall be made up?

The payment amount for the Quad 35 land is \$421,700 (\$160,000 2014 principal payment/\$261,700 2014 interest payment) with an interest rate of 2.5%.

The HRA levy is the recommended direction by staff for the Quad 35 - 2014 land bond payments. The consensus was to proceed with a local HRA levy for the land at 0.01813 percent of the taxable market value of the city.

City staff at the last meeting discussed the next payment for the Freeway District water tank. This is eligible for HRA dollars through Anoka County as the water tank serves the entire freeway district and it's for economic development purposes. The consensus

was to proceed with an HRA Resolution request for the 2nd payment of the Freeway District Water tank in the amount of \$236,591.50 for the 2013 payment, (\$375,652.00 was the 2012 payment) and send it to the City Council for approval and then to Anoka County HRA for final approval.

The City Administrator reviewed disbursements at this time.

A question was asked regarding the difference between “Professional Financial” and Professional Services”.

Professional financial is for professional presentations made to the EDA such as the presentation on TIF. Professional Services is the attorney, planner and engineer.

How much of the EDA fund is uncommitted?

Half the dollars are committed, somewhere between \$5,000 to \$7,000 is uncommitted.

How much money was carry over from last year?

\$2500 from reserves, approximately \$3300 from Running Aces goes toward the EDA.

One item not in the budget paper now is the expenses associated with TIF for professional financial services.

OPEN BUSINESS

Update - Business Retention & Expansion Program (Pages 1-2)

A “Proposal for BR&E Focus Group Program” was included in the agenda which included a draft timeline for the program. President Povolny and EDA Commissioner Wilson have volunteered for the Business Retention and Expansion Task Force. The first meeting is August 6th from 8 – 10 am, this is a breakfast meeting. The previous representative from Connexus is no longer with the company and he did not do any fund raising. It was noted that Connexus did make their contribution of \$5,000. The EDA and City Council are contributing \$1,000 each. The City Administrator has contacted Center point Energy, Wells Fargo, and Xcel Energy for contributions, but has not heard back from them yet. The total budget is \$10,000 for the project.

Update - Website Production

Commissioner Messina has completed his video; the other EDA Commissioners have not completed their videos. It was noted that Forest Lake Cable Commission has everything they need to shoot the videos. The City Administrator will follow up.

Review - 2013 Goals (Page 3)

An updated 2013 EDA Goals list was included in the agenda packet. The City Administrator reviewed the list at this time with the following comments.

Billboard

The vinyl may need replacing and a new slogan should probably be used. The replacement vinyl is around \$2,000. Clear Channel will provide the use of their art department to create the new artwork at no cost to the EDA.

Anoka County Gardening Program

The City Administrator will contact the Olson's Sewer Service regarding their participation in the Anoka County Gardening Program.

Additional Fiber access in commercial and residential areas
a meeting was held with the Midcontinent Construction Director Erin Hayes, we now have updated coverage area maps showing areas not served as well, the goals were discussed not only for residential but the commercial areas as well.

COMMISSION OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Krebs said he'd like to look at an overlay district in the Hornsby Street area to promote housing (east to county line). President Povolny was contacted by a charter school to locate in the area west of Hornsby Street. This would require a code amendment. The other commissioners agreed to pursue this.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The council budget meeting will be in place of the EDA meeting on August 14th.

Treasurer's Report

100 EDA General Fund Loan	\$617,167.17
240 EDA Fund	\$16,104.45
480 EDA Quad 35 Project Fund	\$3,096,224.00 (Land Value)
481 EDA Quad 35 Bond Fund	\$36.01
482 EDA Quad 35 RESERVE Fund	\$419,344.00

Next EDA Meeting Date: September 11, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Peterson.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Emilia S. Robinson
Assistant Secretary EDA