



MINUTES
New Brighton Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting – January 6, 2021
7:30 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

II. Roll Call

Members Present.....Chair Harry Carter, Commissioners Bret Fynewever, Clint Kuipers, Mike Murlowski, Max Nundahl, Anthony Pledger, Jacqui Sauter, and Paul Zisla

Members Absent.....Commissioner Bob Benke

Also PresentBen Gozola- Assistant Director of Community Assets & Development

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Zisla, seconded by Commissioner Fynewever to approve the agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was taken. Approved 8-0

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Zisla, seconded by Commissioner Fynewever to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2020 meeting.

A roll call vote was taken. Approved 8-0

V. Report from Council Liaison

There was no report from the City Council.

VI. Business Items

A. Open to Business 2020 Year End Report

Gozola stated Noah Her, the City's new Open To Business representative, was present to provide the EDC with an overview of their activities during a very difficult 2020, discuss ways OTB has been helping businesses through the pandemic, and can answer any questions about the program moving forward.

Noah Her, Open to Business representative, thanked the Commission for their time. He stated 2020 started out as a normal year and Open to Business was working to executive its marketing plan. He explained he began the year meeting with over 60 clients throughout the County and he was on pace to double the work done as an organization in 2019. However, in March of 2020 the pandemic hit and he had to find new ways to serve local businesses. He stated inquiries were high in the midst of the pandemic and he was able to direct business owners to financial resources once a stimulus package (CARES Act) was approved. He reported nearly 3,000 businesses in Ramsey County were helped since April of 2020. He commented on the outlook for 2021 which was to return to face to face meetings. He noted there has been an uptick in start up businesses in the retail and services fields.

Discussion included:

- The amount of funding distributed within Ramsey County for COVID relief was discussed.
- The Commission asked for further data on the amount of funding provided to New Brighton and the east metro market.
- The Commission thanked Mr. Her for his detailed presentation.

B. 2020 Baker Tilly TIF Management Plan Review & TIF Educational Session

Gozola reported a representative from Baker Tilly was in attendance to provide the latest and greatest data on the status of current TIF districts in the City.

Mikayla Hoyt, Baker Tilly, thanked the Commission for their time. She provided the Commission with an executive summary on the City's TIF districts, discussed the fundamentals of tax increment financing, described how the City's TIF districts have done over the past year and reviewed recommendations for these TIF districts.

Discussion included:

- The Commission requested further information regarding the administrative expenses for the City's TIF districts.
- The history of the City's TIF districts was discussed.

- The Commission questioned if there were opportunities for additional TIF districts in the City and staff discussed the future redevelopment opportunities in New Brighton.
- Staff described how debt was paid down within TIF districts.
- The Commission thanked Ms. Hoyt for her detailed presentation.

C. New Brighton Exchange Update

Gozola informed the EDC about potential development that may occur in the New Brighton Exchange in the coming year. He reported a new marketing agreement had been reached with Eric Rapp and Transwestern Partnership. He provided a brief update on the potential expansion of CSI. He noted TUV SUD was looking to expand and hopefully this would occur in New Brighton.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Fyneweaver, seconded by Commissioner Zisla to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken. 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Gozola". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "B" and a cursive "G".

Ben Gozola
Assistant Director of Community Assets and Development