

City of Isanti
Economic Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes of
January 5, 2016
Isanti City Hall

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Economic Development Director Sullivan at 7:45 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Members Present: Tara Hallberg, Keith Dragisich, Dan Collison, Steve Lundeen, Adam Johnson, Paul Bergley and George Wimmer

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan

c. Agenda Modifications

Acted upon after President Wimmer elected: No modifications to the agenda were presented. Motion to Approve Agenda as presented by Johnson, second by Lundeen, motion carried unanimously.

2. Organization of Advisory Bodies as per Ordinance 181

a) Oath of Office

No new commissioners for 2016. No oaths administered.

b) Election of 2016 EDA President

Motion by Johnson, second by Lundeen to elect George Wimmer as President, motion carried unanimously.

c) Election of 2016 EDA Vice-President

Motion by Dragisich, second by Johnson to elect Steve Lundeen as Vice-President, motion carried unanimously.

d) Election of 2016 EDA President Pro-tem

Motion by Bergley, second by Lundeen to elect Keith Dragisich as President Pro-Tem, motion carried unanimously.

- e) Election of 2016 EDA Secretary
Motion by Lundeen, second by Johnson to select Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan as Secretary, motion carried unanimously.
- f) Election of 2016 EDA Treasurer
Motion by Lundeen, second by Johnson, to elect Finance Director Ms. Brenda Frechette as Treasurer, motion carried unanimously.
- g) Adoption of Bylaws
No changes were made to Bylaws so no action was taken.
- h) Adoption of 2016 EDA Meeting Schedule
Motion by Johnson, second by Collison to adopt 2016 meeting schedule as presented, motion carried unanimously.
- i) Adoption of City of Isanti Economic Development Authority Resolution 2016-1 a Resolution Organizing the Economic Development Authority of the City of Isanti
Motion by Johnson, second by Collison to adopt Resolution 2016-1 as presented, motion carried unanimously.

President Wimmer asked that an agenda item that adopted the Organizational Resolution be added to the agenda next year.

3. Approve Minutes of December 1, 2015 Regular Economic Development Meeting

Motion by Lundeen second by Collison to approve the minutes for December 1, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Meeting Law & Conflict of Interest Information, Clark Joslin, City Attorney

President Wimmer indicated that this presentation was already given to City Council and EDA members were present at the City council Meeting on January 5, 2016.

Staff asked commissioners to get conflict of interest form submitted as soon as possible.

No formal action was requested or taken.

5. 2014-2015 Minnesota Manufacturing Week Summary Report

Economic Development Sullivan highlighted the Manufacturing business reports generated on behalf of the city of Isanti by Greater MSP. Sullivan explained that the City enters the raw data from business visits and various reports can be generated to show trends and areas to review. Has highlight a few of the large changes from 2014 to 2015 and also area that the City scored below neutral for the business environment. Sullivan asked the EDA if they liked the reports and the information contained.

The EDA consensus was that there were useful reports. Tracy Niefert, Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce President provided an update about upcoming chamber events and the pending merger between the Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce and the Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce.

6. Consider Establishment of Meetings with Isanti Businesses in 2016

Economic Development Director Sullivan presented the staff memo. He indicated the he and President Wimmer had been discussing this item generally and were looking for some input from the full EDA regarding the matter. The thought would be to offer times for businesses to meet with City Staff and the Mayor to have questions answered and to pass on information pertinent to the business community. This would build off from what is being done at the Mayor's Luncheon.

President Wimmer stated that he wanted the meetings to be more of informal with coffee and a very low intensity forum.

Sullivan asked the EDA if they had additional comments.

President Wimmer wants the meeting to be fairly frequent with it starting as soon as possible. He thought March was a reasonable timetable to start meetings.

Commissioner Dragisich asked if we could allocate some marketing dollars to these meeting for food and beverage.

Consensus of the EDA was to allocate some marketing funds for food and beverage.

EDA consensus was to have Economic Development Director Sullivan work with President Wimmer to get these meetings up and running in March 2016.

7. Other Business / Updates

Economic Development Director Sullivan highlighted the Staff Memo which included that housing continues to thrive and the he and President Wimmer would be accepting the business recruitment award from EDAM in January. Coborn's and Allina will be incorporated into future marketing materials. The EDA also touched on the impact of SnoBear USA to the community and the unique nature of their products.

- a. Business Prospects
- b. 2016 Tourism Market Study Update
- c. GPS 45:93
- d. EDAM – Winter Conference
- e. Housing Starts in 2015
- f. Business Arrivals and Departures in Isanti 2015

Commissioner Collision asked if the EDA would be interested in putting a map together showing location of businesses and attractions to be placed at Isanti Indoor Arena – Home of Rum River BMX.

President Wimmer indicated that this was a good idea. He indicated that the business haven't seemed to take full advantage of events that come to Isanti. He mentioned past venues such as

Cambridge Isanti Soccer / BMX and Hockey haven't had the best participation rates by Isanti businesses in marketing efforts. More work needs to be done in this area. A Hotel is a key component to the success of businesses in Isanti. The Hotel and how to get it built will be discussed at City Council Goal Setting.

Commissioner Lundeen expressed the need for a hotel in Isanti to accommodate for events. He mentioned that 4 Large State Softball tournaments are held in Cambridge that draw from around the state. They have to turn down bids due to lack of lodging in area.

Commissioner Dragisich asked if the BMX event and the street dance could be coordinated together.

President Wimmer stated that in the past the Street Dances were held on weekends that didn't have conflicting events.

8. Adjournment

Lundeen motioned, seconded by Bergley to adjourn at 8:13 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota, this 5th day of January, 2016.

Respectively Submitted,

Sean M. Sullivan, Economic Development Director