

**City of Isanti  
Economic Development Authority  
Regular Meeting Minutes of  
October 6, 2015  
Isanti City Hall**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Wimmer at 7:23 p.m.

**a. Pledge of Allegiance**

**b. Roll Call**

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

Members Absent: Adam Johnson

Staff Present: Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, Roxanne Achman, Community Development Director

**c. Agenda Modifications**

No modifications to the agenda were presented.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve Agenda as presented by Lundeen, second by Bergley, motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion to approve minutes as presented by Collison, second by Bergley, motion carried unanimously.

**4. Initiative Foundation Presentation – Don Hickman**

President Wimmer welcomed Don Hickman and thanked the Initiative Foundation for the partnerships on past projects. Mr. Hickman presented a power point highlight investment in the City of Isanti and Isanti County. He indicated that there are funds available and that the City should ask the Initiative Foundation for more investment in the community and help on projects. He thanked the City for its financial commitment to the foundation and asked for continued support. He highlighted the manufacturing sector in the interest of IF to support projects and the workforce in the sector.

No action was requested as \$800 has been budgeted for 2016 and the EDA supports this organization.

## **5. Consider Recommendation to Purchase Flash Drives for Marketing Activities**

Economic Development Director Sullivan presented the Staff Memo and asked for support to include jump drives as part of the City marketing activities. He stated that the City has a lot of good information including hotel studies, housing studies and marketing materials that could be placed on the drives for use at trades show, conferences, specific prospects and city staff. He presented options for 100-200 2GB drives with differing levels of quality, data upload and the inclusion of lanyards. He asked for input and suggestions from the EDA membership.

Member Collison asked what specific information would be put on drives.

Economic Development Director Sullivan indicated that it would vary based on the audience and/or prospect.

Member Lundeen asked if 100-150 was enough.

Sullivan indicated that he thought this was a new initiative and wanted to ease into it.

Consensus of EDA was to go up to 200 quantity.

Member Dragisich indicated that some businesses will not allow flash drives to be inserted in to their systems.

Consensus was that the 2 GB drives are too small and that 16GB drives would be of more value to individuals and business prospects.

Motion by Lundeen, Second by Dragisich to direct staff to get a quote for 200 16MB City of Isanti Flash Drives with lanyards and to recommend approval to full City Council. Motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Discussion of Outside Storage Containers in Commercial and Industrial Zoning Districts**

Economic Development Director Sullivan presented the staff memo. He indicated that Staff has reviewed each property of the matrix in the staff memo and made a determination on which would need action to bring them into compliance under the City's current ordinance. Those properties who have added outside storage after 2008 would need to go through the CUP process. Legal non-conforming properties would not have to get a CUP and would be allowed to continue their existing use.

President Wimmer stated that screening the containers is important to future development and that others have been required to screen trailers in the past. He also indicated that the temporary use of storage containers was something that made some sense but that using them as a permanent solution might not be the best situation. If they were indeed permanent they would need to be screened in accordance with outside storage and screening requirements. Enforcing current code over a defined time period on businesses that have added trailers after 2008 would ultimately be the preferred course of action.

Member Bergley agreed and thought that we should give businesses time to come into compliance. He wants it to be progressive and to work with businesses and to give them time to come into compliance.

Member Dragisich indicated that this was just part of the process to clean up and beautify the City of Isanti. It's happening in residential areas and commercial properties should be held to a standard as well.

Sullivan indicated the review of aerial photos was very conclusive and that it was easy to identify what was existing before the ordinance change in 2008.

Consensus of EDA is to have President Wimmer and Community Development Director Achman develop some language/policy, meet with all businesses that have added storage containers/trailers after 2008 that would need to be brought in to compliance according to current code and to develop and execute a plan to come into compliance. The time frame of 9-12 months would be communicated as part of the meetings. Reporting back to the EDA on how these meetings are going will be done as appropriate.

Sullivan asked if this needed to go to City Council for further action.

President Wimmer indicated that it did not.

## **7. Other Business / Updates**

Economic Development Director Sullivan and Community Development Director Achman highlighted the Staff Memo.

- a. Business Prospects
- b. Business Expansions
- c. Minnesota Manufacturers Week October 1-10
- d. GPS 45:93
- e. DEED Site Selector Familiarization Tour
- f. MN DEED Marketing Magazine
- g. Housing Starts in 2015
- h. Correspondence with MNDOT – District 3
- i. Business Arrivals and Departures in Isanti 2015

## **8. Adjournment**

Lundeen motioned, seconded by Collison to adjourn at 8:16 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota, this 6th day of October, 2015.

Respectively Submitted,

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Sean M. Sullivan, Economic Development Director