

**City of Isanti**  
**Economic Development Authority**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes of**  
**February 7, 2017**  
**Isanti City Hall**

**1. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Economic Development Director Sullivan at 7:19 p.m.

**a. Pledge of Allegiance**

**b. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Dan Collison, Ross Lorinser, Paul Bergley and George Wimmer

Commissioners Absent: Tara Hallberg, Steve Lundeen

Staff Present: Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan

**c. Agenda Modifications**

No modifications to the agenda were presented. Motion by Lorinser second by Collison to adopt Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Approve Minutes of January 3, 2017 Regular Economic Development Meeting**

Motion by Lorinser second by Bergley to approve the minutes for January 3, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Review and Discussion of Update to EDA marketing / Work Plan**

Economic Development Sullivan highlighted the changes to the EDA Marketing / Work Plan and asked for comments on the sections regarding the positioning of Isanti to potential prospects. He indicated that much data was dated and the new data supported some of the previous trends that were identified.

President Wimmer requested the partnership with the North 65 Chamber of Commerce. He is not convinced that there are a lot of items that we can work with them on based on what he has seen to this point. The major concern is that the Chamber is focused on working with their members only not all Isanti businesses.

Consensus was to remove the Chamber from page 18 as a potential partner but leave them under the SWOT Analysis so that the EDA acknowledges their presence and that they could be a potential partner in the future.

Sullivan summarized the initiatives and actions for the future. He asked the EDA for specific feedback on the positioning statement.

Discussion ensued.

President Wimmer stated that the stability in the City of Isanti is a positive for development. Developers know what to expect and this opens doors for Isanti. Communities that have unstable leadership scare developers away.

Economic Development Director Sullivan cited an example from Anoka County where the City of Isanti was commended for “doing it right” as seen by development leap frogging over East Bethel and locating in Isanti. Project such as Coborn’s, Allina Health and SnoBear USA are examples of this.

President Wimmer also cited that the City’s high development standards is also being successful as property values are on the rise.

President also indicated that the City is expanding its legislative efforts to help assure that Isanti has the tools it needs to be successful and to improve changes of funding for future projects.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus was to have Economic Development Develop Sullivan condense the position statement and to bring it back to the full City Council for approval.

No Action was requested and no action was taken as this was an information item.

## **5. Other Business / Updates**

President Wimmer questioned the involvement of City Staff in ICICLE. He asked for input from members of EDA.

Consensus was that staff time is valuable and that attending ICICLE was not warranted at this time.

June 1<sup>st</sup> is the estimated opening date for Whiskey Road Pub and Grub.

President Wimmer highlighted the recent successes and development in Isanti. He indicated that these successes might be able to be converted into reductions in development fees. This item will be reviewed this year to see feasibility.

Commissioner Lorinser stated it was nice to exceed reasonable expectations rather than to fall short of unrealistic expectations.

President Wimmer stated that he and Economic Development Director Sullivan met with Senators Koran and Hoffman on 2/7. The focus of the meeting was in regards to MIF and JCF and Isanti projects. The meetings were successful.

Sullivan touched on items highlighted in the Staff Memo below.

- a. Business Prospects
- b. GPS 45:93
- c. EDAM
- d. CGI Video
- e. CVN
- f. Shovel Ready Application
- g. Community Map and Survey
- h. Open House for New Initiative Foundation President
- i. MIF and Business Subsidy Reporting
- j. Housing Starts in 2017
- k. Business Arrivals and Departures in Isanti 2017

## **6. Adjournment**

Lorinser motioned, seconded by Bergley to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota, this 7th day of February, 2017.

Respectively Submitted,

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Sean M. Sullivan, Economic Development Director