

**City of Isanti  
Economic Development Authority  
Regular Meeting Minutes of  
August 28, 2012  
Isanti City Hall**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kuechle at 7:00 p.m.

**a. Pledge of Allegiance**

**b. Roll Call**

Members Present: Larry Kuechle, George Wimmer, Tara Hallberg, Jim Kennedy, Keith Dragisich

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan

**c. Agenda Modifications**

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Member Hallberg, second by Member Dragisich. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Approve Minutes of July 2012 Regular Economic Development Authority Meeting**

Motion to approve the agenda by Member Wimmer, second by Member Dragisich. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Consider Marketing Letter for Industrial Park Development**

Economic Development Director Sullivan presented the Staff Memo. Sullivan indicated that the designer strongly urged the city to reconsider the white border around the brochure. The designer stated that it would “look like” it was printed on the wrong size stock and would look unprofessional.

Consensus EDA was to go with the brochure as presented without the white border.

Chari Kuechle asked about inclusion of the Fiscal Disparities tax in the letter and was concerned on the wording about lower wages in the letter.

Economic Development Director Sullivan explained how fiscal disparities works and that this is a tax that exists in the 7 county metro area at a higher rate than the local jurisdictions. Isanti is not subject to this tax as it is outside of the 7 County Metro Areas.

Sullivan outlined the draft letter to be sent to the manufacturer’s list. The following changes were recommended by the EDA:

First Paragraph: insert after *you* “as Mayor if the City of Isanti”

Reducing your Tax Bill paragraph: Insert statistic of what the property tax savings would be based on an average of northern metro cities.

Available Workforce paragraph: remove “lower” and insert “competitive” and strike the rest of sentence after wages.

Final paragraph: after Sullivan’s contact info: strike “and I” and replace with “or myself”.

Consensus was letter looked good and that the testimonials were on point with the city message.

The mailing of this letter and production of the brochure is a previously approved budget item.

Motion by Member Dragisich, second by Member Kennedy to approve the brochure and letter as amended and to mail it out to the manufacturer’s list assembled by Economic Development Director Sullivan.

#### 4. **Consider Purchase of 209 Main St W**

Economic Development Director Sullivan presented the Staff Memo. The building a garage is in poor condition and staff is recommending the demolition of the buildings if acquired. Sullivan indicated that the total cost for demolition, removal of the foundation, removal of the debris, filling the holes and sealing the well would be approximately \$8,750-\$8,850. Demolition would be a part of this project if the parcel was acquired.

Chari Kuechle asked if the City could condemn and require the bank to tear down the building due to its poor condition.

Economic Development Director Sullivan stated that the building has been inspected by the Building Official Sames and although it is unsightly and currently uninhabitable it is structurally sound and is not in poor enough condition to condemn or declare hazardous. As long as the windows, doors and other opening are boarded up to keep people and wildlife from entering the premises there is nothing the City can do to require the owner to demolish the building.

Chair Kuechle indicated that it might be hard to “negotiate” with an out of state bank.

Economic Development Director Sullivan stated they could potentially work through the realtor.

Member Wimmer stated that if the City decided to move forward with acquisition it should try to do so in the format it used to acquire 236 Broadway SE.

Economic Development Director Sullivan indicated that the vacant lot to the east was owned by Daniel Mujwid and that it combining the two parcels would be ideal for a larger development at some point.

Motion by Member Dragisich, second by Member Kennedy to recommend acquiring 209 Main St W for a “reasonable price” to the City Council.

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

- a. Business Retention Visits
- b. C.L. Hough, LLC
- c. Business Prospects
- d. GPS 45:93 Agenda and Minutes
- e. Isanti County EDA
- f. Isanti Area Chamber of Commerce Night Golf Event – July 27, 2012
- g. Industrial Lot Preparation
- h. Business Arrivals and Departures in Isanti 2012

Economic Development Director Sullivan highlighted the Staff Memo.

**6. Adjournment**

Member Dragisich motioned, seconded by Member Hallberg to adjourn at 7:26 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota, this 29th day of August 2012.

Respectively Submitted,

---

Sean M. Sullivan, Economic Development Director