

**City of Isanti
Economic Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes of
September 1, 2015
Isanti City Hall**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Wimmer at 7:28 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Economic Development Director Sean Sullivan, City Attorney Clark Joslin.

c. Agenda Modifications

No modifications to the agenda were presented.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approve Minutes of August 5, 2015 Regular Economic Development Meeting

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

4. Discussion of Outside Storage Containers in Commercial and Industrial Zoning Districts

President Wimmer introduced the outside storage container situation and history regarding how it's been handled in the past in the city. He stated that would like the EDA to look at how we would handle this issue moving forward. He indicated that American Manufacturing has screened in their trailers and indicated that that many other haven't. He indicated that economic conditions are much better than they were when the City Council last looked at this issue back in 2009.

ED Director Sullivan indicate that the current ordinance says that containers and storage trailers says they should be screened and a CUP for outside storage is required. He stated that this is

currently not being enforced and it has not been enforced as long as he has been here. He stated that there are the need for trailers to serve as interim ways to facilitate growth but questioned the permanent use of them. He felt that they should be screened and placed in an orderly fashion. He stated that it is a “fairness” issue as well as to allowing the use of these containers.

Commissioner Collison stated that limiting the number of units might not be the best and square footage might be a better idea if something is done.

Commissioner Johnson stated that he agreed with points made by Sullivan relating to screening, size and amount of trailers and potentially limiting the time they could be used. He agreed it was a “fairness issue”

Discussion ensued regarding past history of enforcement, communication with businesses and that it was something that was not resolved.

President Wimmer stated there is a process in place to address outside storage and this was typical in industrial areas. The use should be temporary not permanent. He also indicated that the contents of the trailers are not known as well. He stated the he felt hit was becoming an issue as to amount and the unsightliness of these trailer.

Commissioner Collison asked if there would be different standards for commercial and industrial standards.

ED Director Sullivan agreed that there are differences in the districts and standards are different. He reiterated that we have a current inventory and new baseline as of now. Do we start enforcing after today, go back and enforce what we can enforce, is there a middle ground.

President Wimmer stated that we have worked with businesses within this time citing that we require American Manufacturing to screen its trailers.

Attorney Joslin stated that we have the authority to enforce the ordinance and require businesses to get the required CUP. If the business is legal non-conforming we cannot require then to come into compliance. If there not legal non-confirming we can enforce the ordinance with the burden of proof assigned to the business to prove that they were legal non-conforming.

ED Sullivan stated that for most of the parcels it would be relatively easy to identify businesses that have added these within the last 5-6 years and what the impacts would be.

President Wimmer indicated that we could enforce screen for the non-confirming properties.

Discussion regarding commercial and industrial use ensued. Consensus was that commercial district should be held to a higher standard. It was noted that there are some legal non-conforming properties that we cannot enforce.

Commissioner Lundeen stated that industrial parks and use of trailers is normal and we need to understand that. They sometime sit for a while but the eventually move. He stated that there are seasonal things that are industrial by nature.

President Wimmer stated we have light industrial uses with a lot of walk up traffic. We need it to look presentable. This isn't a heavy industrial district like a Rail Industrial park would be. Screening should be expected.

Commissioner Johnson stated he thought screening was reasonable.

Economic Development Director Sullivan stated that in his opinion industrial districts aren't "pretty" but they needed to be "orderly"

Motion to direct staff to bring back to future EDA meeting what enforcement of existing city ordinance would look like on parcel list that was provided on staff memo by Wimmer, second by Lundeen, motion carried unanimously.

5. Other Business / Updates

Economic Development Director Highlighted the Staff Memo spending time to highlight visit from Congressman Nolan and the arrival of SnoBear USA.

- a. Business Prospects
- b. Business Expansions
- c. Isanti County EDA
- d. GPS 45:93
- e. Congressman Nolan Visit - Recap
- f. MN DEED Marketing Ad – Update / Copy
- g. Housing Starts in 2015
- h. Business Arrivals and Departures in Isanti 2015

6. Adjournment

Johnson motioned, seconded by Lundeen to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota, this 3rd day of September, 2015.

Respectively Submitted,

Sean M. Sullivan, Economic Development Director