

City of Mora Economic Development Authority

Minutes

**2:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

Mora City Hall, 101 Lake St. S, Mora, MN

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof Dan Johnson called to order the regular meeting of the EDA at 2:03 p.m., on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, in the Mora City Hall council chambers.

**2. Oath of Office:** Mike Segner and Rose Krie took the oath of office.

**3. Roll Call:** Present: Jody Anderson, David Youngquist, Dan Johnson, Alison Holland, Mike Segner, Rose Krie

Absent: Brett Baldwin, Robert Jensen

Staff Present: City Administrator Glenn Anderson, Community Development Director Kirsten Faurie, Administrative Services Director Natasha Segelstrom, Accountant Kelly Christiansen

**4. Adopt Agenda:** MOTION made by Krie, seconded by Youngquist, and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda.

**5. Election of Officers for 2023:**

MOTION made by Segner to select Johnson as President. Seconded by J. Anderson and unanimously carried.

MOTION by Segner nominating himself to serve as Vice President. Seconded by Youngquist and unanimously carried.

MOTION by Johnson to select Faurie as Secretary, seconded by Segner and unanimously carried.

MOTION by J. Anderson to select Jensen as Treasurer. Seconded by Krie and unanimously carried.

**6. Minutes:** J. Anderson noted an incomplete sentence in the Nov. 1, 2022 minutes under item *8c 2023 EDA Meeting Schedule*. The sentence should read:

***c. 2023 EDA Meeting Schedule:** MOTION by Jensen to adopt the 2023 EDA Meeting Schedule as presented, seconded by Baldwin and unanimously carried.*

MOTION made by Krie, seconded by J. Anderson and unanimously carried to approve the Nov. 1, 2022 minutes as amended.

**7. Claims:** MOTION by Segner, seconded by Krie and unanimously carried to approve the October-November 2022, November-December 2022, and December 2022-January 2023 claims.

**8. Open Forum:** No persons spoke during open forum.

**9. Special Business:** None

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**10. New Business**

**a. Small Cities Development Program Grant Amendment Request:** Faurie explained how the city worked with the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership to administer the Small Cities Development Grant. The funds may be used to improve safety and certain structural repairs for a variety of residential homes. Faurie noted that funds that are not used are forfeited back to DEED. Owner-occupied home projects were proving more popular than rental projects, so Faurie recommended reallocating funds slatted for rental projects to owner-occupied projects. This would increase the number of homes that could receive repairs. This transfer is accomplished by submitting a Grant Amendment Request to Deed.

MOTION by Segner, seconded by Krie and unanimously carried to recommend city council approval of the DEED grant amendment request as presented.

**b. 2022 Annual Summary of Economic Development Activities:** Faurie informed the commissioners the EDA presents the city council with an annual report of the past year's activities. As Faurie has not been with the city for a full year, asked the EDA if they would review the report for any items that may have omitted. J. Anderson asked why more action hadn't been taken related to increasing local tourism. J. Anderson noted tourism, particularly marketing via social media, had been priority action item set by the EDA for years. It was discussed to look and find where these priorities had been set and if the EDA had done some strategic planning in the past to guide its priorities and activities. G. Anderson suggested coordinating with the Mora Area Chamber of Commerce or perhaps creating a budget and/or committee specifically for tourism activities.

Commissioners discussed if it would be the city EDA, the Chamber or perhaps a special Visitors Bureau that would spearhead tourism efforts. The consensus was to invite the Chamber director to the next meeting of the EDA and put tourism on the next EDA agenda.

**11. Old Business:** None

**12. Reports**

**a. Quarterly Financial Report:** Segelstrom presented the Quarterly Financial Report with an update on the repayment of COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Loans. J. Anderson asked if the city's COVID-era, temporary ordinance allowing restaurants to have additional outdoor seating was still in place or if it needed to be rescinded by the council. Staff said they would research the matter and respond with an answer at a later date.

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**b. Kirsten Faurie Report of Recent Activity:** Faurie reported on her recent activity and asked the EDA for guidance regarding Northstar RE. In 2018 the City of Mora entered a purchase agreement with Northstar RE for land in the Industrial park. Terms of the agreement included job creation goals that have not been met and that Northstar RE would pay the city \$2,816.96 per missing job . Faurie asked the EDA if they wanted her to proceed with the process laid out in the purchase agreement to claim funds owed to the city.

MOTION by Segner to follow the structure of the agreement, seconded by J. Anderson and unanimously carried.

**c. Mora Summary of Construction Activity 2022:** Faurie presented the summary of construction activity. G. Anderson discussed the new Dollar General and some questions members of the public have had about its construction.

**13. Communications:**

**a. Kanabec County EDA Minutes (November & December):**

**b. Initiative Foundation**

**c. GPS 45:93 2022 Highlights**

Faurie invited the Commissioners to attend the Highway 65/23 Corridor Study Open House hosted by MnDOT on Feb. 22 5-7 p.m. at Mora City Hall

Holland gave a verbal report noting that in April, the county and Highway 23 Coalition will be meeting Representative Pete Stauber to discuss the future of the highway.

G. Anderson introduced the city's new accountant, Kelly Christiansen, who spoke a little about herself and thanked the EDA.

**14. Adjournment:** MOTION by Segner, seconded by Johnson and unanimously carried to adjourn the EDA meeting at 2:49 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the EDA is **2 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, 2023.**

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President

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Kirsten Faurie  
Community Development Director