

City of Mora Economic Development Authority

Minutes

**2:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, 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, May 2, 2023, in the Mora City Hall council chambers.

**2. Roll Call:** Present: Jody Anderson, David Youngquist, Dan Johnson, Alison Holland, Mike Segner, Rose Krie, Brett Baldwin, Robert Jensen

Absent: None

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

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

**4. Minutes:**

- a) MOTION made by Segner, seconded by Youngquist and unanimously carried to approve the Feb. 7, 2023 minutes as presented.
- b) MOTION made by J. Anderson, seconded by Jensen and unanimously carried to approve the March 7, 2023 minutes as presented.
- c) MOTION made by Krie, seconded by Jensen and unanimously carried to approve the March 17, 2023 minutes as presented. Johnson made note that the Special Meeting which was scheduled for April 11 had been canceled.

**5. Claims:**

- a) MOTION by Segner, seconded by Baldwin and unanimously carried to approve the January-February 2023 claims.
- b) MOTION by Baldwin, seconded by Youngquist and unanimously carried to approve the February –March 2023 claims.
- c) MOTION by Segner, seconded by Baldwin and unanimously carried to approve the March-April 2023 claims.

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

**7. Special Business – Tourism Discussion:** The EDA welcomed guest Jenna Maciej, Executive Director of the Mora Area Chamber of Commerce who was invited to speak with the EDA about tourism. The group discussed the scope of their goals regarding attracting tourists to Mora, possible costs, funding options, time commitments and the various organizations, businesses or

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individuals who may be stakeholders or the persons to achieve these goals. Any financial needs to achieve these goals will be discussed during budget season. The EDA directed city staff, Kirsten Faurie, to explore various tour bus companies and encourage them to make stops in Mora.

MOTION by Segner, seconded by Youngquist and unanimously carried to table discussion until the next regular meeting of the EDA.

**8. New Business:** None

Johnson asked about a survey being done by the Vasaloppet online regarding the Vasaloppet possibly constructing a permanent structure on the Downtown Commercial Corner lot (a.k.a. Old Feed Mill site). Glenn Anderson reported that he and Faurie have been in contact with Vasaloppet board members regarding the site, specifically potential costs and uses of the lot. The Vasaloppet has been considering building a permanent structure on the site as a replacement to the temporary tent erected during race week. At this time these are ideas; no formal commitments or plans have been made. If the project moves forward beyond those conversations, the proposal will be brought to the city for review.

**9. Old Business:** None

J. Anderson asked for an update on Nick Mitchell's proposed purchase of the Industrial Park land. Faurie explained that she did not have much detail, except that Mitchell had a conversation with his lender, and after that conversation decided to drop the project; the decision did not appear to have anything to do with city action.

**10. Reports**

**a. Quarterly Financial Report:** Accountant Kelly Christiansen reported there was not much movement in this quarters' financials. Jensen asked to clarify the reason for the changes in the balance of the cash and investment fund. Christiansen said she would look up the details and get back with answers.

MOTION by Youngquist, seconded by Segner and unanimously carried to approve the quarterly report.

**b. Small Cities Development Program (SCDP):** Faurie presented an update from the Small Cities Development Program noting that in response to the board approving the shift of duns toward more owner-occupied single-family projects. There was a marketing flyer mailed out which seems to have significantly boosted interest. Nine application inquiries have been received since those flyers went out.

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**c. Kirsten Faurie Report of Recent Activity:** Faurie reported on her recent specifically progress made in Business Retention and Expansion meetings, work being done to develop housing of all types, participation in the GPS 45:93 Economic Development group, and childcare. The City also was recently awarded a Transportation Alternatives Grant from MnDOT; MnDOT is also continuing work on their Highway 23/65 corridor study. Faurie also provided information to the board regarding remote meeting attendance. To allow remote attendance, the council chambers would need to get some technology issues worked out; more information will be provided at a future date.

Rose Krie left the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

G. Anderson provided an update on the budget process, Mora Lake outlet pipe and including desired items on the Capital Improvement Plan like the Wood Street Trail Extension and corresponding street project.

**11. Communications:**

**a. Kanabec County EDA Minutes (January & March):**

**b. MnDOT Grant Award Letter**

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

**12. Adjournment:** MOTION by Jensen, seconded by Baldwin and unanimously carried to adjourn the EDA meeting at 3:27 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the EDA is **2 p.m. Tuesday, August 1, 2023.**

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President

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City of Mora Staff