

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
MAY 21, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Lieske called the meeting to order at 7:04 am in the City Council Chambers, 415 Central St. W.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Prigge, Furrer, Lieske, Ruppert, Rivers and Daleiden

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Zellner

STAFF PRESENT:

Joel Erickson, City Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lonsdale Area Veteran's Memorial Task Force Members Ben Baker, Daryl Rieck, Harold Vosejka, Ben Sticha and Evelyn Duban

2. AGENDA

Lieske asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made by Furrer and seconded by Prigge to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Prigge, Furrer, Lieske, Ruppert, Rivers and Daleiden. Against: None Vote 6-0. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 16, 2015 REGULAR

Lieske asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes. A motion was made by Prigge and seconded by Rivers to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2015 regular meeting. Vote for: Prigge, Furrer, Lieske, Ruppert, Rivers and Daleiden. Against: None Vote 6-0. Motion carried.

4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2015 TREASURER'S REPORTS AND MONTHLY BILL(S)

Erickson said April had a beginning balance of \$223,954.51, revenues of \$2,562.35 and expenses of \$2,637.37 for an ending balance of \$223,879.49. He said the bill(s) paid in April totaled \$2,637.37. Erickson said there was one bill paid May 15, 2015. Lieske asked if anyone had any questions. Furrer asked if the \$2,046.00 credited to Fund 209 was the amount paid by Marlys Benolken for her SCDP Grant loan. Erickson replied yes.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Prigge to approve the April 2015 Treasurer's Report and monthly bill(s). Vote for: Prigge, Furrer, Lieske, Ruppert, Rivers and Daleiden. Against: None Vote 6-0. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update From the Marketing Subcommittee and Consider Approval of the on the Marketing Event to be Held Thursday, June 18, 2015 at the Lonsdale American Legion

Erickson said the progress made to date is enclosed in the packet. He said the date of the Forum is Thursday, June 18th but the time needs to be finalized. He said Furrer and himself met with Sandi Niemeyer of the Legion to discuss food options, which need to be approved by the Board. Erickson reviewed the people to be invited and the Forum agenda. Erickson said a draft of the presentation is also enclosed for review and will be finalized by the Forum. Rivers suggested making sure all businesses were covered including downtown. Prigge said all businesses with storefronts should be invited. The Board discussed the time of the Forum and agreed it should be 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Ruppert recommended that utility company brochures should be available at the Forum. A motion was made by Prigge and seconded by Ruppert to approve the material presented for the EDA Business Forum. Vote for: Prigge, Furrer, Lieske, Ruppert, Rivers and Daleiden. Against: None Vote 6-0. Motion carried.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider Approval to Contribute \$10,000.00 Towards the Lonsdale Area Veteran's Memorial

Erickson summarized the progress made to date. He said he is amazed how the community has come together on this fundraiser and the amount raised to date. Baker provided the Board history on the project and the amount of funds raised. He said the cost of the project is \$174,000.00 and reviewed each component of the project. Baker reviewed what saving have been incorporated into the project and the amount of financial commitments. He said the Task Force is looking for a commitment from the EDA, which relates directly to the EDA's past and current streetscape plans and one of the 2015 goals, which is downtown beautification. Rivers agreed that downtown beautification is a goal of the EDA but questioned how does providing funds to this project accomplish this? Baker said the Veteran's Memorial will be a destination point, there will be signage on Highway 19 and projects like this tend to have a domino effect because businesses typically look at their building and begin to make improvements. Baker said he is looking to the EDA to be a partner on goals already established. The Board held general discussion how parks pertain to economic development. Furrer asked if the sticking point was the amount of the request. Rivers said he believes there are better ways to accomplish the EDA's goals instead of a park. There was general discussion on past EDA efforts to improve downtown through the streetscape project, the SCDP grant, etc. Erickson said after the house at 133 Main St. N. was taken down as part of this project, MN Barnwood painted his building because it now could be seen from highway 19. Erickson said he know is one property owner that want to make improvements to their building but are waiting for a grant. Ruppert said if only one business wants to improve their building, is that worth the EDA's investment in the Veteran's Memorial. Rivers said that any motion made needs to have a rider incorporated stating that the EDA needs an overall plan as to how the goals/mission will be accomplished. A motion was

made by Prigge and seconded by Daleiden to approve contributing \$10,000.00 to the Lonsdale Area Veteran's Memorial and that no more funding requests will be approved until there is a plan established by the EDA as to how the EDA's goals and overall mission will be accomplished. Prigge said by having marketing subcommittees, the EDA has begun to establish how it will begin to accomplish its goals and mission. Harold Vosejпка requested to speak and said the Memorial should have been done years ago and now we have the chance to honor veterans. He said the EDA was started when he was Mayor because several businesses were contemplating leaving Lonsdale, so the EDA worked with those businesses to keep them in town. Daleiden said the City at that time was forced to be progressive. Baker said the EDA could table a decision but the economic development issues discussed earlier will take years to finalize. Furrer asked Baker about the "Support our Troops Haunted House". Baker said the organization has agreed to commit \$2,500.00 to the project and another \$2,500.00 as a match to another organization's contribution of at least \$2,500.00. Daleiden said he agrees with the need of an overall plan and the EDA has been more progressive in the last six months than in previous years. Ruppert said the next question seems to be the amount, should it be \$10,000.00 or \$5,000.00? Vote for: Prigge, Furrer, Lieske, Ruppert and Daleiden. Against: Rivers Vote 5-1. Motion carried.

- b. Consider a Funding Request Submitted by the Rice County Small Business Development Center
Erickson said this is an annual funding request, which the EDA has approved in the past but not for the last several years. The Board discussed utilization by local businesses, the reason for the request, etc. Ruppert said the EDA is tasked with economic development and this seems to be a valuable service and a good idea. Rivers said the Business Forum is a better use of funds for local businesses than approving this request. The item was tabled to the June meeting.
- c. Update on MN DEED's Road Show Presentation
Erickson said he attended a MN DEED Roadshow, which reviewed economic development incentives available from MN DEED. He said it was for informational purposes only and to be used if a Board members is asked about incentives by a business.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Additional Items to be Discussed
None.
- b. Items for the June 2015 Agenda
The Board requested the following item be on the June agenda: (1) funding request submitted by the Rice County Small Business Development Center; (2) final presentation for the EDA's Business Forum; (3) the Economic Development section of the City's Comprehensive Plan; (4) the EDA's Revolving Loan Fund and (5) beginning discussions on goals moving forward. The Board also

requested that Erickson contact Steve Perry to see what his plans are for the three buildings he owns on Main Street.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Prigge to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 am. Vote for: Prigge, Furrer, Lieske, Ruppert, Rivers and Daleiden. Against: None Vote 6-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator