

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m., President Jim Kreft presiding.

Members Present: President Kreft, Noack, Rosenfeld, Sorenson, Vrklan, Councilmember Voight,
Councilmember Borchert

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Director Krueger, Assistant Director Schultz, Mayor Czech

Motion by Voight, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2006 meeting as presented.

It was the consensus of the EDA to approve the Financial Report for January as presented. Director Krueger updated the EDA on the GEIS loan with DEED.

Asst. Director Schultz presented information on the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership. He and Director Krueger had met with Lisa Graupentine, a representative from SMHP, back in January. SMHP deals primarily with affordable housing and have a mix of market-rate housing as well. They have 2 developments in St. Peter at this time. Director Krueger commented that Jeff Hennen has expressed an interest in doing this type of program within his development. It was noted during their visit with Ms. Graupentine, that Arlington will need to have a housing study done fairly soon and these cost approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 and can be paid for through grants.

Asst. Director Schultz commented that Winkelman Developers gave a presentation to the City Council that showed what types of housing (market rate) they could offer Arlington. They were going to be making a proposal to the City regarding what size apartment unit they could do and what they would require/need (incentives) from the City. Director Krueger commented that with having to do a housing study, the cost could possibly be split between Winkelman, Hennen and the City.

Brief discussion was held on housing studies. Kreft tabled this until the next meeting when more information could be provided.

Kreft spoke on business retention and expansion. He stated that Asst. Director Schultz and he had met with Chamber of Commerce members Pia Larsen and Trisha Rosenfeld on this. The above group was interested in starting a Chamber/EDA Cooperative program which includes monthly informational meetings with guest speakers that business owners can attend and ask questions to help them improve their business (es). Voight questioned what this had to do with the EDA; she expressed her feelings that the Chamber and EDA are 2 separate organizations and one shouldn't try to run the other. Rosenfeld, Kreft and Schultz all explained that the idea behind this is to show the existing businesses that the EDA can (wants to) help them and not just bring new business (es) to town. Director Krueger commented that the EDA can help the business owners find funding for expansion projects, etc. once they understand that the EDA is there to help them. Noack and Borchert favored the idea of the speaker program. Kreft tabled discussion on the speaker program until the next meeting in order to give the members more time to think about the program.

Asst. Director Schultz had contacted Duane Duenow about putting a cover crop on the former Swenson property in the southwest corner of town. He stated that Duenow is interested in doing this and it would be done under the same terms as the agreement he currently has with the EDA on the Nickel property in the northwest corner of town. The agreement was being drawn up.

Asst. Director Schultz updated the EDA on the billboard that is to go up on Hwy 212 near Lano Equipment in Norwood Young America. He was hopeful that it would be up by March 1st.

Director Krueger asked the EDA to look over the By-laws and bring suggestions back at a future meeting. Kreft commented that he would be ok with city staff or Attorney Arneson making the noted changes and draft a new copy for the EDA to review.

Noack commented that he recently had discussions with 2 different Hispanic families about the “safe” feeling they have living in Arlington, essentially what drew them here.

Asst. Director Schultz explained that he will be providing an activity report each month so the EDA members can see what types of activities he is involved with on behalf of the EDA.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at 7:00 a.m.

Motion by Vrklan, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 a.m.

Director David L. Krueger

President Jim Kreft