

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, August 23, 2011 - 6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order.
2. Approval of Agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes.
 - A. June 28, 2011
4. Approval of Financial Reports.
 - A. August, 2011
5. New Business.
 - A. Discussion of Purchase Option Alternatives
Guest: Bill Pinske

 - B. Joint EDA/Chamber Event
6. Old Business.
 - A. Capital Improvement Plan Requests

 - B. Updates: Downtown Properties & Hwy 5 Beautification Grant
7. Board Announcements.
8. Adjourn



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 23, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Pichelmann at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Nuesse, Thomes, Councilmember Pichelmann, Councilmember Ruehling
Member Absent: Krueger, President Lundstrom, Sorenson
Also Present: EDA Director Smith-Strack, Bill Pinske

Motion by Ruehling, seconded by Thomes, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

The June & July Financial Reports were reviewed.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Nuesse, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the June and July Financial Reports as presented.

Discussion was held on securing a purchase option or first right of refusal for various (industrial) properties in or around the city limits. Smith-Strack presented a list of potential properties that are outside of city limits and abuts the railroad. She stated that she had talked with Bill Pinske about acting as a liaison for securing purchase options. Bill Pinske was present and stated that he has helped the City out in the past with acquiring property and would consider it again; and presented a proposed fee schedule. Smith-Strack commented that she was working with a couple of individuals (businesses) seeking land (rail needed for one of them). Discussion was tabled until the next regular meeting when more members could be present.

Smith-Strack talked about the EDA and Chamber holding a joint event on Saturday, October 29th to help further business networking and activity. She stated that they are trying to get Senator Klobuchar to be a guest speaker at the event.

Smith-Strack explained that the City adopted a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP – 5-year plan) last year; said plan needs to be updated annually with the budget. Thomes commented that they have been discussing land purchases, but until it gets decided what is wanted and/or needed; it doesn't pay to allocate any money for it. Ruehling commented that studies are difficult to fund and results are not guaranteed. Pichelmann agreed, but felt that some money could be allocated. Nuesse suggested allocating something for the Prairie Line Trail Head Facility. Smith-Strack suggested allocating something for signage (TIF, Safe Routes, Trails, etc.).

Motion by Nuesse, seconded by Thomes, and passed by unanimous vote to allocate \$10,000 for the Capital Improvement Plan and designate it for the potential programs as outlined in the EDA's objectives, a land purchase option and/or the development of Prairie Line Trail.

Smith-Strack commented that she had been working on getting additional information on the EDA page of the City's website.

Smith-Strack provided updates on the UFC and Cemstone properties. She stated that the UFC property had been up for sale, but the sale fell through. She stated that the owners of the Cemstone property are looking for land (5-8 acres) north of Hwy 5 away from the downtown area as the property is past its useful lifespan. Pichelmann expressed concern about the unsightliness (state of existing structures and weeds growing up all over) of the Cemstone property.

Smith-Strack commented that the Hwy 5 Reconstruction project has been moved back to 2014. She added that beautification grant money is still available.

Motion by Ruehling, seconded by Thomes, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the June 28th meeting as presented.

Thomes commented that before the EDA would ever consider purchasing the Doehling property, they should find out from Tim Dolan (SEDCO) whether a rail spur could be put in as there is a large swamp area right in the middle of it.

Thomes gave a brief update on the SEDCO.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Nuesse, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm

Councilmember Robert Pichelmann

Director, Cynthia Smith-Strack