

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012 @ 6:00 P.M.  
Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda.
4. Guests.
  - A. Tim Penny, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
5. Approval of Minutes.
  - A. February 28, 2012
6. Approval of Financial Reports.
  - A. February, 2012
7. New Business.
  - A. TED Grant Submittal – Letter of Commitment/Support.
8. Old Business.
  - A. None.
9. Board Announcements.
10. Adjourn



**MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 27, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by President Lundstrom at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Krueger, Lundstrom, Nuesse, Sorenson, Thomes, Councilmember Ruehling

Member Absent: Pichelmann

Also Present: EDA Director Smith-Strack, Tim Penny

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

Tim Penny, President of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, talked about collaborative efforts that focus on Early Childhood Development (ECFE) and Entrepreneurship. He stated that SMIF tries to be a helpful economic development partner to those in need in the region. He also spoke on the Community Growth Initiative (CGI) grant program and how Arlington could benefit from it.

Motion by Ruehling, seconded by Thomes, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented.

The February Financial Reports were reviewed.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Krueger, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the February Financial Report as presented.

Smith-Strack talked about the application for the Transportation Economic Development (TED) grant. She explained how Arlington could utilize and/or benefit from this grant, more specifically moving Cemstone out to the new industrial park on the property the EDA will be acquiring along the railroad and also with the trail system. It was noted that both Seneca Foods and Cemstone were in support of the grant.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote to submit the Letter of Commitment/Support for the TED grant application as follows:

March 28, 2012

Mr. Matt Jaunich  
City Administrator  
City of Arlington  
204 Shamrock Drive  
Arlington MN 55307

**RE: TED Grant Submittal**

Dear Mr. Jaunich,

As members of the Arlington Economic Development Authority we continue to provide advice to the City Council on issues related to development and redevelopment. In addition we have invested financially in development and redevelopment projects and in infrastructure development. Some of our recent accomplishments relating to economic development include: securing a purchase option on land for an industrial park, working to promote reuses within the Prairie Line Railroad corridor in the Downtown, supporting expansion of capacity of the Prairie Line Railroad, and providing financial assistance to local businesses and entrepreneurs.

To those ends, we clearly see the benefit of a project to develop a new intersection with TH 5 that will connect TH 5 and CSAH 17/CR 166 and allow access to a new industrial park. We have worked closely with the Sibley County Engineer, Sibley County Commissioner Pinske, and Cemstone Products Inc. to develop a viable economic development project which will lead to Cemstone vacating its downtown property in favor of expansion in a new industrial park.

Tangible spinoff benefits include (a) donation of a Cemstone property adjacent to High Island Creek to the City for park, recreation, and streambank stabilization/water quality buffering and (b) vacation of the existing Cemstone site in the Downtown which has passed its useful life.

We are enthusiastic about the Cemstone move in that it will retain existing jobs and add new jobs. Wages are excellent for the community at \$20/hour excluding benefits. The Cemstone site will be redeveloped and is well suited to parking for Sibley East School and athletic fields, a trailhead facility for the Prairie Line Regional Trail, and/or public parking.

For all these reasons we are completely supportive of submitting an application to the Transportation Economic Development Program and extremely committed to seeing this project through.

Sincerely,

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Mark Lundstrom, Chairperson

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Larry Sorenson, Secretary

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Bob Pichelmann, City Council

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Richard Thomes, Member

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David Krueger, Vice Chairperson

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Jason Ruehling, City Council

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Jennifer Nuesse, Member

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Cynthia Smith-Strack, Director

Smith-Strack talked briefly about the future of Cemstone in Arlington (area). It was noted that they do want to keep a presence here, not close the plant as has been rumored. They are willing to work with the City/EDA on a land swap for the property on Main Street.

Sorenson questioned if there have been any updates regarding TSE leaving Arlington. Smith-Strack reported what she knew.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

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President, Mark Lundstrom

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Director, Cynthia Smith-Strack