

Medford Economic Development Authority
Wednesday, May 10, 2017
5:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Duncan, Heisler, Paulson, Nelson, Wenc

Others in Attendance: Administrator Welti,

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Duncan.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Wenc to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Heisler, seconded by Nelson to approve the meeting minutes from March as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Paulson, seconded by Heisler to approve the EDA Financial Report. Motion carried.

Election of Officers. The following slate of officers was nominated and elected by unanimous ballot.

President: Bryan Duncan
Vice President: Tom Heisler
Secretary: Sharon Paulson
Treasurer: Jerri Wenc

Members reviewed the Steele County Housing Study and the highlights handout created by Administrator Welti. Members discussed the need for a range of housing to be developed that would meet the needs of young professionals, families, seniors, etc. Administrator Welti informed the board of his outreach to, and sharing the housing study with, nearly a dozen private and nonprofit developers from the region. Based upon the initial discussions with developers, it will likely take a partnership between a developer and the City to move forward with workforce housing or entry level housing. TIF, abatement, or other economic development tools are being discussed with developers as possible tools that the City may approve to make a development of workforce housing a reality. EDA members supported Administrator Welti's continued outreach to developers. Three Rivers Community Action will be present at the July meeting to inform EDA members of their workforce housing developments in the region and to discuss a possible partnership.

EDA members reviewed the presentation given by CEDA representatives at the March meeting. Members discussed contracting with CEDA for economic development assistance one day every other week for a year. Members felt CEDA could increase the City's presence, provide economic development assistance, and provide a positive return on investment. The approximate cost would be \$11,800, which could be split between the EDA and the general fund. General consensus among the EDA Board was to include the cost of the contract in the 2018 budget which will be discussed at the July EDA meeting.

Business and Economic Development Updates: Interested individuals continue to contact the City regarding vacant properties on Main Street and throughout the City.

The next EDA Networking Event will be held Thursday, May 25, 2017, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Turkey Store/Jerome Foods offices located at 108 S. Main St.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.