



Watertown Economic Development Authority

Ken Grotbo
Cory Mitteness
Roxanne Wilmes
Deborah Everson
Lindsay Guetzkow

12/3/2020 - Minutes

1. Roll Call

Chair Ken Grotbo called the Economic Development Authority Meeting to order at 8:30 am via Zoom.

EDA members present: Grotbo, Roxanne Wilmes, Cory Mitteness, Deborah Everson, and Lindsay Guetzkow.

Staff present: City Administrator Shane Fineran and Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Tschudi.

2. Adopt Agenda

MITTENESS MOVED, WILMES SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL PRESENT VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3. New Business

3.A. Approve EDA Meeting Minutes Of November 10, 2020

WILMES MOVED, EVERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2020. ALL PRESENT VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3.B. Pandemic Business Rebate Program V.2

City Administrator Shane Fineran said the State of Minnesota has once again limited indoor dining for bars and restaurants by Executive Order 20-99. City Council took action to reduce the utility ERU calculation for these businesses down to one which will reduce their base billing rate while their indoor dining is closed. Fineran showed the monthly impact on utility bills for the bars and restaurants affected by the ERU reduction. Fineran explained a second relief effort would be a pro-rated liquor license fee for the months of November and December for the on-sale bars and restaurants. The total liquor license rebate could be up to \$2,546.64 for the four on-sale bars/restaurants in Watertown. The combined relief effort with the utility relief and license rebate could be up to \$3,973.40 provided by the Economic Development Authority depending on how many applicants apply for the programs.

Everson asked if the resolution is adopted the funds can be distributed to the applicants without holding an additional meeting. Fineran said with the way the resolution is written, the funds will be distributed after the application is complete. Chair Grotbo asked if Snap Fitness should be included since they are affected by the Executive Order. Fineran said he could alter the application to include fitness centers.

MITTENESS MOVED, EVERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-12EDA, ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. ALL PRESENT VOTED AYE, MOTION CARRIED.

3.C. 2021 EDA Budget And Levy

City Administrator Fineran said the preliminary EDA levy was adopted in September at an amount of \$58,575. This amount stayed the same from 2019. Fineran said there has been no change in the budgeted EDA levy since September. He explained that the overall levy has decreased since the preliminary levy in September due to expenses coming in lower than expected. Second half tax collection revenue was higher than expected, so the City is in a strong place budget wise. Overall, the City is at a 1.21% increase from 2020 to 2021 for the average valued home.

Fineran said the Economic Development expense line item on the budget was increased to \$70,000 to support businesses in 2021. He is also hoping to do a developer's day in 2021 as well as continue to aid residents.

EVERSON MOVED, MITTENESS SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2020-13EDA, ADOPTING A 2020 TAX LEVY FOR THE WATERTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION IN 2021. ALL PRESENT VOTED AYE, MOTION CARRIED.

4. Updates

City Administrator Fineran updated that the City has issued the 50th new home construction permit this week. There has been a lot of inquiry about development of raw land in Watertown. He urged members to brainstorm how they can help the businesses in the community. Fineran said that Carver County is thinking about another round of grant programs to county businesses.

The EDA members discussed shopping small, local business shopping, and possible online collaborations.

5. Adjourn

MITTENESS MOVED, EVERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:16 AM. ALL PRESENT VOTED AYE, MOTION CARRIED.

309 Lewis Avenue South; P.O. Box 279, Watertown, MN 55388