



City of Blaine

Economic Development Authority

November 20, 2023 | 8:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:18PM by President Sanders followed by the Roll Call.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: President Tim Sanders, Commissioners Leslie Larson, Chris Massoglia, Tom Newland, and Jess Robertson.

ABSENT: Commissioners Terra Fleming and Lori Saroya.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. 2023-553 Approval of the October 16, 2023 Economic Development Authority (EDA) Minutes

Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director

Moved by Commissioner Newland, seconded by Commissioner Robertson, that the Minutes of October 16, 2023, be approved.

Motion adopted unanimously.

4. New Business

4.1. 2023-588 Agreement Extending and Amending the MOU for Anoka County Economic Development

Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director

Community Development Director Thorvig stated in 2017, Anoka County, in coordination with various cities (including Blaine), Connexus Energy and Metro North Chamber, created a task force to analyze and study ways Anoka County could be more competitive in economic development. A consultant was hired to complete a report and market analysis of business opportunities, targets, and strategies for economic development within Anoka County. An outcome of the process was the formation of Anoka County Regional Economic Development (ACRED). A dedicated staff person for economic development was hired and paid for by Anoka County to lead the efforts. Various subcommittees, which included city staff representatives, were formed to advance the economic development efforts in Anoka County. ACRED's 2023 budget was \$21,780. Efforts focus around a presence at various real estate events, marketing, and hosting three Anoka County specific economic development events annually. The budget is provided via cost share based on the population amongst all cities in Anoka County. Blaine's share in 2023 was \$4,003, which is funded from the Blaine EDA. The estimated cost in 2024 is \$4,098.

Mr. Thorvig reported in 2019, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was entered into by all Anoka County cities, Connexus Energy and Metro North Chamber of Commercial for the purpose of advancing economic development in Anoka County. The original 5-year term expires on January 10, 2024. Anoka County is seeking to extend the MOU an additional year. The original MOU created two options as the 5-year expiration drew near; either a new MOU would be created to facilitate continuation of services, OR the "final action plan" would be the mechanism to justify dissolution of the initiative and ACRED would cease to exist. Because services are planned to be continued, there is not a final action plan at this time. The 12-month extension keeps all other terms the same, besides extending the expiration deadline. Ideally, additional work over the next year will highlight opportunities that ACRED should focus on, which may/may not include new directions that aren't currently being pursued. ACRED will take those future results and facilitate further discussion with the cities on what a longer-term MOU should entail to ensure that ACRED best supports the current needs of the cities rather than the 2017 objectives that don't accurately reflect today's economic challenges. In general, the City of Blaine doesn't rely heavily on the services of ACRED, as Blaine has dedicated economic development staff versus other smaller communities. However, the overall marketing efforts and ability the City has to attend various real estate events and the local events they host, there is an overall benefit to ACRED marketing and highlighting Anoka County and the north metro.

Moved by Commissioner Newland, seconded by Commissioner Massoglia to approve an Agreement Extending and Amending the MOU for Anoka County Economic Development.

Motion adopted unanimously.

- 4.2.** RES 23-192 Authorizing an Interfund Loan between the Blaine Economic Development Authority and the City of Blaine

Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

Finance Director Zimmerman stated on November 6, 2023, the Blaine City Council approved an agreement with the National Sports Center Foundation to provide up to \$500,000 of funding, referred to as Phase I, for engineering and preliminary excavation work related to the construction of turf fields. While future financing is being contemplated by the Blaine City Council for phase II of the construction project, the 105th Avenue Redvelopment Project is being driven by the Blaine EDA. For this reason, the attached resolution provides an inter-fund loan between the EDA and the City of Blaine with the following stipulations:

- Loan amount up to \$500,000 from the Blaine EDA to the City of Blaine EDA Capital Projects Fund
- The interfund loan is issued at zero percent interest
- The loan automatically terminates if bonding is provided by the City of Blaine for phase II of the turf field project
- If the City of Blaine fails to issue bonding for phase II of the project by December 31, 2024, the inter-fund loan terminates and the Blaine EDA is required to transfer \$500,000 of funds to the City of Blaine EDA Capital Projects Fund

Moved by Commissioner Robertson, seconded by Commissioner Newland, to Authorize an Interfund Loan between the Blaine Economic Development Authority and the City of Blaine.

Motion adopted unanimously.

5. Old Business

None.

6. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Robertson, seconded by Commissioner Newland, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, President

Attest by:

Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk

