

**CITY OF MOORHEAD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 25, 2008
First Floor, Boardroom, Moorhead City Hall**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Moorhead Economic Development Authority was held in the First Floor South Board Room, City Hall, Moorhead, Minnesota, on the 25th day of August, 2008. Chair Parries called the EDA meeting to order. Roll call of members was made as follows:

EDA Members Present: Werner Golling, Mark Hintermeyer, Kay Parries, Kelli Poehls, Jon Riewer, James Taylor, Jim Welch, Lauri Winterfeldt

EDA Members Absent: Robert Remark, Gane' Skatvold, Mark Wallert,

Others Present:

Harlyn Ault	Finance Director
Wanda Wagner	Assistant Finance Director
Scott A. Hutchins	Director of Community Services
Peter Doll	Manager of Business & Development Services
Amy Thorpe	Community Services Program Assistant
Michael Redlinger	City Manager
Brian Walters	Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC
Mary Batcheller	Greater Fargo Moorhead EDC

2. AGENDA AMENDMENTS

There were no agenda amendments.

3. MINUTES – June 23, 2008

Poehls moved, seconded by Riewer, to approve the June 23, 2008, minutes. Walters asked that a portion of the minutes be redacted so as to provide context to the discussion. Discussion of this issue resulted in Poehls removing her motion to approve and submitting a new motion to table the approval of the minutes until the next meeting, allowing Walters to submit his suggestions for redaction. Riewer seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE BOARD

No citizens requested to be heard.

5. GFMEDC UPDATE

Walters submitted to the board the *GFMEDC Community Report – July 2008*. Walters asked the board to scan the document and give feedback. He proposed in the future the report be sent to members in advance. Board members agreed and asked Walters to submit reports via email to the City prior to the meeting to be included with the packet.

Riewer asked if Moorhead were to forward a prospective business on to GFMEDC, would Moorhead be kept updated in terms of that referral? Walters explained that they have not received referrals from Moorhead or West Fargo as both cities handle their referrals. Fargo hands all referrals to GFMEDC. There are mechanical issues to be figured out long term.

Riewer inquired if GFMEDC shares information with its member cities and what are individual city's rights to that information within the partnership? Walter gave specific scenarios to illustrate his response stating that most companies are less concerned with real estate and more concerned with available work force and this has been a misconception.

Riewer suggested GFMEDC provide members a recap or debrief of the events that brought a business to the F-M area so that member communities can see they did in fact get a fair shot at the project.

Walters noted that, depending on where the referral comes from, GFMEDC is required to submit a proposal from a certain area / state. If MN/DEED made a referral to GFMEDC, they require that the proposal only include Minnesota. This also happens in North Dakota as well.

There was further discussion regarding projects and proposals made by individual cities and GFMEDC. Walters stated, "This sometimes puts GFMEDC in the position of competing against itself – or communities that are a part of the GFMEDC. It makes the mechanical and political aspect of the work impossible. More clearly defined roles need to be in place."

After more discussion regarding the broad scope/goals of the GFMEDC and its mission, Parries moved the discussion forward to the budget.

The board requested an update from Walters regarding MSUM incubator project. Walters stated that, "GFMEDC will look at it as a new project since the funding fell through because of some administrative rules at the state level (DEED) which eliminated / reduced their participation. At this time, DEED has requested a new application because the amount of match has changed and the funding of the project has changed."

6. 2009 BUDGET BRIEF

Redlinger briefly discussed the 2009 Budget Reports and the status of the budget and the budget process. The 2009 Budget Summary will be posted to the city website after final review by the City Council.

Redlinger summarized the attachments and advised the board that the issue before them today is the EDA tax levy. September 15 is the date that the state requires the preliminary levy to be certified. He also stated that this is not a final decision but will hold open the option for future discussions.

Redlinger called to members' attention the projected 2008 EDA fund balance of approximately \$50,000 at year's end.

Discussion occurred regarding incentives, what are they and how have they benefited Moorhead businesses. It was suggested the board focus on the proposed tax levy and move the discussion of incentives to future meetings.

Winterfeld moved to recommend to the City Council that the proposed 2009 EDA tax levy to be set at \$333,000, the statutory maximum. Riewer seconds the motion. The motion is carried by unanimous voice vote.

7. INFORMATION/UPDATE – Information in Packet

8. ADJOURN

Chair Parries adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

Kay Parries
Chair

Kelli Poehls
Secretary

Submitted by:

Amy L. Thorpe
Community Services Program Assistant