

**MEETING OF THE PEQUOT LAKES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TUESDAY, April 16, 2023**

Members Present: Chair Lottman; Commissioners Becklin, Hallan, and Lelwica

Members Absent: Commissioner Holley

Others Present: Angie Duus, City Clerk/Treasurer; Scott Pederson, City Council Liaison; Kurt Stumpf, Pequot Lakes School District Superintendent; Nichole Heinen, Pequot Lakes Chamber Director; Mark Jurchen

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lottman at 8:00 a.m.

2. Consider Agenda

COMMISSIONER LELWICA MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HALLAN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

3. City Council Update

Discussion ensued about a sign-up sheet for the EDC Commission Members to take turns attending the Council meeting every month.

Commissioner Lelwica stated her and Chair Lottman presented the Small City Development Program for housing to the Council. She stated the City is using the SCDP for infrastructure this year therefore the City cannot use that program for housing until next year and apply in November. She said the Council agreed to have Widseth draft up a proposal to present to the EDC Commission and then the Commission will bring it to Council. Discussion ensued about if it made sense to hire a professional grant writer.

Discussion ensued about potentially having a workshop with the EDC and Council. Chair Lottman asked to have it added as a topic to May's EDC agenda.

Chair Lottman stated Mayor Gardner asked the EDC Commission to talk about the sign that is on old 371 northbound. Chair Lottman stated he would find out what sign they are discussing.

Discussion ensued about the splashpad grand opening on May 25th. The EDC recognized the City Maintenance Staff for doing a good job at making sure things are getting done.

4. School Update

Discussion ensued about reviewing the draft facility study at the next EDC meeting. Discussion ensued about ballfields and the potential of them going in the Heart or the Good Life.

5. Chamber Update

Nichole Heinen said she is focused on Stars and Stripes, Crafters and collecting sponsorships, crafters, and vendors. She said she has a lot of people signed up already. She said things are getting done earlier with the help of her worker Ali Beste. She said that Ms. Beste is their new Event Coordinator and Graphic Designer. Ms. Heinen stated Ms. Beste also helps with their marketing. She stated this is exciting as they can get the word out about events faster to draw more people in. Ms. Heinen discussed the power of social media.

Ms. Heinen stated they will probably be working with MN Traders as one of their main sponsors and they will probably be serving the alcohol at Stars and Stripes. Discussion ensued about possible slogans and changes for the Chambers summer events. She said they will have their next Explore Pequot Lakes meeting on the last Wednesday of the month at the Lakes Area Food Shelf. Discussion ensued about funding for the fireworks for Stars and Stripes. Angie Duus stated the City has in the budget \$3,500 for fireworks for 2023, which comes from a carryover fund. Ms. Heinen stated they are doing a roundup campaign at the Dairy Queen on Memorial weekend and a donation event at Supervalu starting that weekend and continuing for a couple weeks after. She stated they are accepting Venmo for firework donations.

6. Workforce Housing Update

Mark Jurchen stated he did a housing inventory last May. He said he recently contacted United Methodist and said they are looking at doing something with property north of the church. He stated there is a lot happening right now along Patriot from the standpoint of looking at rezoning to urban residential from commercial. He stated Timberpoint just started a duplex and fourplex on Lilac that should be done by summer. He said there should be six or eight units. Mr. Jurchen said there were five units sold on preserve. He stated there were two parties that requested rezoning by Lilac and Royce and said that is going from commercial to urban residential. He stated projects in Trailside Estates should begin in May and the apartment in the HOTGL should begin soon as well.

Mr. Jurchen stated there was an article in the Brainerd paper that explains the impact multi-family units have on the tax base for a City. He stated people want to live here but we don't have a lot to offer. He stated there are a few other potential developments that may be happening in the next several months. He said there is more happening in the City right now than has happened for a long time from the standpoint of residential and it is encouraging to see. Discussion ensued about the apartment complex and the potential tax base it will bring to the City.

7. EDC Goals

Chair Lottman stated the EDC needs to show up at the Council meeting or they need to have a workshop with the Council to get goals assigned and accomplished. Council Liaison Pederson suggested including the P&Z in the workshop. He stated the P&Z hears information first and the Council is usually the last to hear about it. Discussion ensued the EDC Commission

could serve as an advocate for developers and entrepreneurs. Discussion ensued about the role of the Planning Commission and that the Council relies on the Commission. Discussion ensued that the EDC Commission is getting bypassed with potential projects that may be starting in the future. Ms. Duus explained that these projects are confidential until permitting is applied for but if a developer wanted to bring it to the EDC Commission to make it public, they can. Discussion ensued about someone promoting vacant properties located in the City.

8. BLAEDC Update

Matt said BLAEDC is a huge advocate for Pequot. Discussion ensued about the process of a potential project.

Ms. Duus stated Tyler Glynn wanted the Commission to know that they are currently administering another childcare grant for the county, which is located on BLAEDC's website. She stated applications will be open through May 3rd.

9. Other Business

Discussion ensued about a future road in HOGTL and what the benefit is of doing the road now or waiting. Commissioner Lelwica stated if the road that was going to cross the Paul Bunyan Trail shouldn't it be discussed now since it could take a while to get it approved through the DNR. Commissioner Hallan said there are drafts already.

COMMISSIONER LELWICA MOVED TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO SECURE THE CROSSING FOR THE FUTURE ROAD WITH THE DNR. COMMISSIONER HALLAN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

10. Adjourn

COMMISSIONER HALLAN MOVED TO ADJORN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER LELWICA SECONDED THE METTING. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Duus
City Clerk/Treasurer