

MINUTES OF KASSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING March 3, 2015

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Kasson EDA was held at City Hall this 3rd day of March, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Egger, Peterson, Stevenson, Sturgis, Johnson and Wegner
Absent: Langan

The following staff members were present: Mike Martin, Community Development Director,
City Clerk Rappe,

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Stevenson called the meeting to order at 12:00

MINUTES: Motion for approval of the meeting minutes from February 3, 2015 made by Peterson, seconded by Johnson, All Ayes.

COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS SEARCH PLAN REVIEW: The discussion included consensus on the Purpose section. In the Goals section the EDA stated that jobs and businesses go hand in hand but we are not going to emphasize the creation of jobs. In the Policies section; #3 the EDA would like to work with everyone not just owner/operators; #6 the Tax Increment Financing philosophy should be that public subsidies should go for public improvements and not into the pocket of the developer. A list of Action Steps was discussed and it was decided that a presence at local trade shows would be appropriate along with participation in local organizations and associations.

Motion to adopt the Comprehensive Business Search Plan made by Egger, second by Sturgis will all voting Aye.

CURRENT BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PLAN REVIEW: Community Development Director Martin stated that this plan focuses on existing businesses and the downtown. There was no discussion.

Motion to adopt the Comprehensive Business Retention and Expansion Plan made by Sturgis, second by Peterson with all voting Aye.

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT EXAMPLES: Sturgis handed these out at the last meeting. These are example of two towns that reclaimed/redeveloped their downtowns with the help of Wells Fargo. Stevenson suggested that maybe we need to look at a specific theme for the downtown, specialty businesses, etc. Everyone was in agreement that there needs to be more parking downtown. Stevenson stated that the downtown owners could start a committee to bring their vision to the EDA, and they could start a website specifically geared towards downtown. Sturgis stated that this would be more of a Chamber activity. Stevenson stated that we have gotten responses from the letter sent out to all businesses.

SHOPKO LOT DISCUSSION: Martin would like to put a for sale sign on the city-owned lot in front of Shopko. Martin would include "and other lots" on the for sale sign. The EDA was in favor.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Martin stated quite a bit of his time since the last meeting has been spent on zoning and council issues.

OTHER BUSINESS: Stevenson stated that he had a long talk with Elroy Bessler on building more four-plexes in different areas around Kasson. Each area comes with its own various challenges. Bessler would like to make these private drives/streets, Egger stated that if this would be the case we would like everything in writing so we don't have another issue about private streets and usage and plowing.

Johnson stated that there was a meeting with Mayo Clinic and their expansion and remodel. Mayo is going to stay where they are and expand out to the sidewalk and use all empty space on that lot.

Peterson stated that there is a parking spot so close to the crosswalk that it is hard to see someone trying to cross there.

ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Rappe, City Clerk