

ELYSIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AUGUST 25, 2010
ELYSIAN CITY HALL
6:32 P.M.

The Elysian Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Wednesday, August 25, 2010, at City Hall at 6:32 p.m.

Present were: Board Chair Tad Kinyon; Commissioners Bob Frechette, Mary Opsahl, Carole Morsching, Dave Rager, and Executive Director Patricia Nusbaum.

On motion by Opsahl, seconded by Morsching, all voting in favor, minutes of the July 15, 2010 regular meeting were approved with the following addition:

Motion read: Discussion was held on the concern of the Council appropriating funding for the 2011 budget. A roll call of members was taken: Opsahl – take money offered from Council and do some good things with it; Frechette – have enough operating for a year; Kinyon – no additions this year; Rager – no funds this year; Morsching – Council should decide as to whether they want to give us the funds for budget operation.

To read: Kinyon – no additional funds this year.

On motion by Kinyon, seconded by Frechette, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda with the following additional item:

1. Budget concerns
2. Meeting date

On motion by Kinyon, seconded by Frechette, all voting in favor, to move the regular September meeting from September 26, 2010 to September 25, 2010.

Business of the Month was discussed. Silver's Resort was selected for the month of September. Nusbaum will contact McFall.

Discussion was held on financial data Rager handed out to the Council. Opsahl questioned the legitimacy of what was handed out and was concerned as to how we can help the community better. Was concerned as to not accommodating the businesses. Wanted to know what the Board was here for.

Rager stated that it was a function of the EDA Board to watch out for the funds of the EDA and to get the highest interest rate possible.

Kinyon noted that the EDA has done things in the community such as: loans to businesses, holding the Business Night Out, providing funding for PRIDE brochure, and an ad in the SMLRA magazine.

On motion by Kinyon, seconded by Frechette, all voting in favor, to take out another CD in the amount of \$5,000.

City Attorney Moran will be asked to be at the next meeting.

Executive Director Nusbaum stated that she had sent a letter to Greenwald's Greenhouse and Landscaping as reviewing with them a plan to get caught up on their loan payments. President Kinyon

asked Rager as Treasurer to go to Greenwald Greenhouse and Landscaping and talk to them about paying on their account.

Nusbaum will contact Gary Hager as when the next payment can be made.

Discussion was held on Business Night Out. The menu was set. On motion by Morsching, seconded by Kinyon, all voting in favor to allow up to \$350.00 for food costs for Business Night Out.

On motion by Kinyon, seconded by Rager, all voting in favor, to not have a program, but a welcome will be given and members will serve the food, and the Board will mingle with the business to share thoughts and ideas from the businesses.

Nusbaum updated the Board on recent conversations regarding a fishing pier for Lake Francis. The DNR at present has discontinued making the piers. They were not willing to give the City the plan for the making of the piers, due to it being their plan. According to the DNR, costs for the city to built a pier would be between \$15,000 and \$20,000. It has to be built sturdy due to the moving of the ice in the wintertime. Pier is not removed from the water each fall.

Highway signage – no report

In July the EDA included a survey with the utility billing seeking public response. Nusbaum presented the results of the survey. Out of 400 surveys sent out, 25 responded. The survey results are as follows:

Senior Citizen Apartment Housing (14) affirmative (1) negative

Comments:

Whatever it is that gets more people into the City. Has the City thought about owning an apartment building?

I feel either of these options would be appropriate as our population appears to be stagnant and there seems to be an increase in the elderly population.

Locked entrance.

Senior Assisted Living Facility (9) affirmative (0) negative

Comments:

Need an apartment building for public.

We probably aren't big enough and the one in Waterville is not doing well at the time with only three tenants there.

Use Waterville. Has lots of openings.

Fishing dock on city park property (9) affirmative (3) negative

Comments:

Would be ok but people do sit around shore to fish and relax.

Boat dock – could 2 be combined?

At end of Francis.

Why not work with DNR on east side of City access – save park area for beach – Don't commingle well. Can't catch fish where swimming too. Think about it!!

A business need in the community (9) affirmative (0) negative

Comments:

Laundromat. Fitness Center. Mini golf course. Gift shops – affordable.

Updated Library.

Anything that would create more activity on Main Street. By the way I seldom, if at all, see members of the Board in my Business. We have had a great little City, but little effort has been made by this board, some members of it, to help it to continue to be great. It appears to me that there is some mission to destroy what we have.

A need would be that people start supporting the businesses we have. Many of our people who say they support our city really don't??

You need to lend to businesses not CD's! 2% compared to 3% ---dah-----

Year round fitness place. Library media center. Home for food shelf.

Not another Beaver.

I'm not sure what type of business would do it but we need to attract younger people to our city. Why do we see new housing being built in Janesville and other cities but not ours?

We senior citizens really need a fitness center!

Ongoing.

Critical to develop business base in the community. Senior facilities are desirable, if needed.

Dollar General Store. McDonalds. There is neither one in the area between Mankato-Faribault. Would also give some employment.

Laundromat.

Bulk Candy Store – Detroit Lakes has one and big hit, been there years, could be in conjunction with pet shop or ice cream shop.

Bike repair / rental business.

Other comments:

Let's get the library done!! Be proud – Let's do something right for our community.

Need promotion and marketing of community – Nothing has been done for almost 2 years.

I am a business. I would like to borrow funds to help my business. I will not come before this EDA Board for a request while the present Board is serving. The paperwork is to deter a business to ask for funds. I do not want two members of the Board to know anything about my finances. They cannot (the two Board members) be trusted.

Each time I hear about how much money is in the EDA account I wonder why it is so hard to get a loan. A 3% number is better than a 2% interest. When someone needs help to do something good help appears

to not be available. That is contrary to the mission statement. When people work hard to try to do something to improve a situation they just get knocked down. It seems so negative and discouraging after working hard to bring something people can use to better their life. Elysian needs community building.

Other: parking lot by school for employees and recreational park area.

Practice your mission statement. It has been lost in the last 2 years. Doesn't take a very smart person to realize how important a library is to our town. Hopefully this will all change after the next election!

Year round fitness place. Library media center / Home for the food shelf.

The library needs a "new home" and we are in full support of this.

EDA need to get off their butts – and get something done. Get the library moved to the Childs building.

Supporting library through a loan to purchase Child's building.

A community need in the community – Fund the library request for expansion and "community" workout facility.

Need to promote projects that beautify the city and make it look well cared for even if the city has to pay for them.

The EDA should not be used to buy building such as city hall or library. These facilities should be voted on with a bond referendum. Note: Don't approve of privately owned business in Library building – should be all kept public.

All of the above fine. The problem is parking, parking, parking.

Please move forward with plans to improve the library.

Make a decision. Buy the Childs Building --- get food shelf and library there. Rental property for low income people and families.

Don't let our library leave!!

Would there be possibility of boat docks by City Park? Help library into Childs Building!

Has a needs assessment been done recently?

How about turning "like new" building extension on south side of Main across from the "Beaver" into housing. Would have to have an elevator also and sensibly priced. Fixed income over 55 (age) residents only! No smoking a requirement or pets.

Library: In favor but with reduced price. Not worth \$100-120,000, maybe \$60-80,000 fair value? Get appraised, then hearing of public. Don't need bail others out like we did on city hall.

Provide the city library with permanent housing! Stop buying CDs and use the loan money to promote the city.

President Kinyon brought to the attention of the Board a letter he had received. He did not offer as to whom the letter was from or to whom it was addressed. A concern Kinyon brought out in the letter was that someone sitting at the Board table had not been receptive to someone who was considering a

business in the City. He indicated that a business wanted to come to town and they were turned away. He mentioned that it was a used car business. Nusbaum responded that since he had mentioned a used car business, she probably knew who the letter was from and if that was the case, she indicated that she had acted very appropriately with this person and probably had e-mails to prove it. Kinyon stated that the letter went on and stated that tax rate should be lower, and if the EDA takes less money from the City the levy will be lower. On behalf of the EDA, Kinyon said he would respond to the letter.

Rager indicted that the water rates were a factor. EDA could get the levy down by not taking any more from the City.

Morsching indicated that that is up to the elected officials to decide.

Rager stated that the Council needs input.

Opsahl stated that she thinks dialogue is great. That is what the Council is trying to do. Look at the Library issue, being sent back and forth between the Council and the EDA. We need to support the Library. She indicated that she wants her tax dollars to go to an entity that will do good for the City.

Morsching stated that she is willing to sponsor a resolution in support of Library funding, but for right now, she believes that it would not pass. As soon as the Board has come to be comfortable with supporting the Library with funding, she will bring the resolution forward. There will be a meeting with questions to be answered. Kinyon stated that numbers are not adding up, it is not complete.

No one was present for visitor's comments.

On motion by Rager, seconded by Opsahl, all voting in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Attest:

Tad Kinyon, President

Patricia Nusbaum, Executive Director