

ELYSIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MAY 7, 2020
ELYSIAN CITY HALL
6:00 PM

The Elysian Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

Present were: President Mack Evans; Commissioners Bobby Houlihan, Mary Opsahl (attended via teleconference), Steve Ritchison, and Derek Westby; Administrator Lorri Kopischke.

Absent: None.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020 Regular Meeting, March 30, 2020 Special Meeting and April 10, 2020 Special Meeting as presented. Voting on the motion: Aye: Evans, Houlihan, Opsahl, Ritchison, Westby. Nay: None. Motion carried.

On motion by Ritchison, seconded by Evans, to approve the agenda as presented. Voting on the motion: Aye: Evans, Houlihan, Opsahl, Ritchison, Westby. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Melissa Loeffler, 200 E North Street, Janesville, MN, was present to request a revolving fund loan in the amount of \$20,000 to purchase equipment needed to operate a day care business in Elysian.

Loeffler explained she had received her Early Childhood Development Degree in 2001. Since then she has always worked in some type of childcare setting and she is currently the Lead Teacher / Director at Pitter Patter in Madison Lake. She loves this type of work and would like to own and run her own business. She is looking at opening a daycare center in the building at 117 Main Street E.

Loeffler stated there is a need for a daycare center in this area. She does not believe there will be an issue with getting the number of children needed to make this work. The center will accommodate children ages six weeks to kindergarten age. There would still be room to add school age childcare and summer care at a later date.

Loeffler plans to serve as the Director of the Center and a preschool teacher. She would hire seven staff in the building as there needs to be a lead teacher in every classroom. The building has a kitchen. She would like to hire someone to cook and to clean.

Westby reported that he has assisted Loeffler with development of a marketing and business plan, market analysis, and budgeting. His children have been attending Pitter Patter Day Care Center for five years and have only continued at that Center because of Loeffler and her staff.

Ritchison stated he works at the Janesville School and they have a School Age Child Care (SAC) there. He sees the amount of work that goes into that and he appreciated Loeffler's efforts.

Westby quoted a 2017 study of day care needs in the area: Mankato -727, Waseca -370, Janesville -116, and Le Center -91. There is a definite need for a day care center in this area and this is a good location being adjacent to State Highway 60.

Loeffler stated she plans fence off the backyard and make a little play area. Also, the preschoolers can walk on the trail or to a park.

Houlihan stated this was a good plan and would bring people to town to use the restaurants and gas stations.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Ritchison, to approve a revolving loan in the amount of \$20,000.00 for a period of 120 months at 3% interest to Melissa Loeffler to purchase equipment for a daycare center she plans to open at 117 Main Street East, Elysian. This revolving fund loan is contingent on Loeffler being approved and receiving small business loans for startup of the business. Voting on motion: Aye: Evans, Houlihan, Opsahl, Ritchison. Nay: None. Abstain: Westby. Motion carried.

Revolving Fund Loan financial information was discussed. The EDA is currently allowing loan payment deferral until July 1, 2020 due to COVID-19. Some businesses are continuing to make payment and others are utilizing the deferment period. Three businesses did apply and receive funds through the EDA 0% interest COVID-19 Operational Loan Program as follows: Elysian Auto Service \$3,000, Zimbrich Properties \$3,000, and Knotty Bar & Grill \$10,000. The EDA savings account balances are \$77,528.41 unrestricted and \$44,889.78 restricted.

It was reported that the Facebook drawing for gift cards to area restaurants is going well. Each post received over 100 comments. It was suggested that the giveaway be expanded to include other businesses in the City that had been shuttered due to COVID-19.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, to initiate a second round of Facebook gift card drawings in the amount of \$25 at the rate of two per week. The businesses included in the drawings are the Rusty Flamingo, Trailside Trims, Uptown Cuts, American Legion, Thirsty Beaver, Pamela's Pet Shop, Fitness Escape, Mama's Mercantile, and Scoops. Voting on motion: Aye: Evans, Houlihan, Opsahl, Ritchison, Westby. Nay: None. Motion carried.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Ritchison, to accept the financial report as presented. Voting on motion: Aye: Evans, Houlihan, Opsahl, Ritchison, Westby. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Commissioners discussed a request from the Farmers Market for a picnic table at the Tourism Center. Prices obtained from Menards included a folding plastic Lifetime table in the amount of \$149 and a metal frame kit with the needed wood to build a table in the amount of \$95.

Evans and Houlihan stated they still felt it would be a good option to bring up a table or two from the beach.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, to purchase the metal frame kit and the needed wood to build a picnic table from Menards for use at the Tourism Center and to seek a volunteer to paint it. Voting on the motion: Aye: Evans, Houlihan, Opsahl, Ritchison, Westby. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Kopischke reported that James Bros Construction is still working on their information for EDA Business Spotlight. They plan to have it completed by the end of next week.

There were no visitor comments.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Ritchison, meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm. Voting on the motion: Ayes: Evans, Houlihan, Opsahl, Ritchison, Westby. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Attest:

Mack Evans, President

Lorri Kopischke, Administrator