

ELYSIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
DECEMBER 3, 2020
ELYSIAN CITY HALL
6:00 PM

The Elysian Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, December 3, 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, Steve Ritchison, and Derek Westby; Administrator Lorri Kopischke. Absent: None.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Ritchison, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda as presented.

Revolving Fund Loan financial information was discussed. No payments were received from Loan #2abc. All other loans are current. The EDA saving account balances are \$96,653.48 unrestricted and \$46,607.99 restricted.

It was noted that Minnesota Governor Walz has issued Executive Order 20-99 – Implementing a 4-week dial back period which closes bars, restaurants, and gyms to the public.

The Commissioners discussed a deferment of required monthly payments of existing revolving loans without penalty. There was consensus to defer required monthly payments and the length of deferment was discussed.

The Commissioners also discussed short term 0% interest loans to businesses.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Evans, all voting in favor, to defer required monthly payments of existing revolving loans with no penalty for a period of (90) ninety days or until March 1, 2021 and to offer 0% interest revolving fund loans in an amount up to \$5,000 to businesses for operational needs for a loan period of (6) six months with no payment. At the end of the (6) six-month period, the loan must be paid in full or it will be reworked into a standardized revolving fund loan at a 3% interest rate with a maximum term of (5) five years. Amounts up to \$5,000 can be processed by the EDA Administrator without an EDA meeting. A business can apply for a larger amount and that request would have to be approved by the Economic Development Authority.

Businesses can continue to pay their scheduled payment if they are able. This will be revisited at the February 2021 EDA Meeting to consider an extension.

The Commissioners discussed the 2020 Liquor License Fees. The restaurants and bars in the City have been required to pay their license fees even though their businesses were shuttered and/or they were unable to serve on sale. The license fees are as follows: On Sale \$1500, Club On Sale \$100, Sunday Liquor \$200.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Ritchison, all voting in favor, to transfer \$3,450 from the EDA Fund Account to the General Account to pay one half of the 2021 On Sale Liquor Licenses

for the Knotty Bar & Grill, Fischers Bar, Tuckers Tavern, Thirsty Beaver, and the American Legion Post #311 and to recommend City Council defer payment of the second half of the on sale liquor license until July 1, 2021 to help alleviate their losses for being closed due to COVID-19.

The names of all the businesses who have not yet been featured as the business spotlight were placed in a container and a name was drawn. The business drawn was “Elysian Bank”.

On motion by Ritchison, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, that Elysian Bank will be the next Business Spotlight. The owners will be contacted, and an update will be provided at the next EDA meeting.

A Recap of 2020 EDA Activities was provided as follows:

Published (2) Business Spotlights on the EDA Website – Trailside Trims and Elysian Auto Service.

Provided revolving loan to assist fitness center upgrade security system.

Provided 0% interest COVID 19 Operating Loans and deferred required monthly payments of existing revolving loans with no penalty for a period of (90) ninety days / July 1 (which was later extended to August 8) when the Stay at Home Order was issued in March.

Held Facebook drawings for gift cards to the local businesses who were shuttered during the Stay at Home Order to promote the businesses.

Facilitated Small Business Grants for (8) eight businesses with CARES Act Funding received by the City of Elysian in July.

Authorized Staff to move ahead with the update / improvement of the website to be hosted via a different platform.

Ideas to get the public and the businesses engaged and attract businesses to Elysian will be discussed at the February 2021 meeting.

President Evans noted this will be Mary Opsahl’s last EDA Meeting. He called Mary the “people’s councilmember” because even when things were difficult, she always worked together to find a solution that worked for all. She is a great family person, a great council person, and he thanked her for being an outstanding person on this board.

Opsahl stated the most important for her has been teamwork and compromise and to always work for the citizens of Elysian.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, the next meeting of the Elysian Economic Development will be Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

There were no visitor comments.

On motion by Ritchison, seconded by Opsahl, all voting in favor, meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Attest:

Mack Evans, President

Lorri Kopischke, Administrator