

**UNAPPROVED  
MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA  
MARCH 14, 2011  
5:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*Ted Phillips EDA President called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Economic Development Authority to order for March 14, 2011 to order at 5:32 P.M.*

**CALL OF ROLL:**

*On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming Economic Development Authority were present: EDA Members, Ted Phillips, Nate Wilner, Jerry Owens, Eric Peterson and Linda Nanko Yeager*

*Absent: NONE*

*Also Present: City Administrator Craig Mattson, City Staff Member Robb Linwood and Chisago County HRA/EDA Director Chris Eng*

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:**

*The EDA Chairman determined a Quorum was present.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**OPEN FORUM:**

*"An opportunity for members of the public to address the Economic Development Authority on items not on the current Agenda. Items requiring action maybe deferred to staff for research or future EDA Agendas if appropriate."*

Mayor Peterson commented that a few businesses from the industrial park were interested in putting up a nicer sign for the industrial area off of 260<sup>th</sup> street. Is it possible that the city can provide them some help? Ted Phillips suggested it is not in the best interests of the city to get into the sign business. The city cannot pay for private signage, we went down this road with Stars and Strikes and Regal a few years back. Chris Eng said when you spend public dollars it usually has to be for a public interest, you cannot spend public money for a business. The EDA could look at the possibility of putting up a Wyoming Industrial Park sign.

Mayor Peterson has been contacted by five businesses that are interested in the signage: Xtreme Paint, Leroy's, Breitbachs, Rosenbauer General Safety and Sunrise Fiberglass. Chris Eng stated we would need a legal opinion on the signage from the city attorney. Mayor Peterson asked could you separate the two, could you lease them the land? The EDA believes it's a great idea, but does it work with the public interest? Linda Yeager asked how encumbered is the Gillespie property, would that may be an option for signage. Staff suggested that all city sign ordinances would still apply for the signage and a legal opinion from the city attorney is necessary.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- 1 Consider approving the minutes of the “Regular Meeting” of the Wyoming, Minnesota Economic Development Agency for January 11, 2010.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY EDA MEMBER OWENS, SECONDED BY EDA MEMBER YEAGER, TO APPROVE THE “REGULAR MEETING” MINUTES OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR January 11, 2010**

*Voting Aye: Phillips, Wilner, Owens, Peterson and Nanko-Yeager*

*Voting Nay: None*

*Abstain: none*

## **ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 2. Sean Wagner – Wyoming Planning Commission Member**

Sean Wagner was present to discuss some ideas regarding our comprehensive plan and formulate a business plan for the community. The Planning Commission can help the EDA and the City Council begin to develop a series of strategic visions or initiatives of that comprehensive Plan. The community of Wyoming needs to be ready when the community recovers from the poor economy. Mr. Wagner has worked with different communities to help them engage in ways to take a comp plan, the business community and the EDA as a group and move forward.

Mayor Peterson asked Mr. Wagner if he had any main goals or ideas. Mr. Wagner thinks there are some great opportunities in front of us. Mr. Wagner believes that Fairview and Polaris are major stepping stones and businesses related to Fairview and Polaris would like to make their home here. Look at the clearly unique assets that we have in Wyoming and apply those to attract other developments to support those large businesses. Ted Phillips thinks that it is a great idea that we have businesses working hand in hand cohesively with all groups. Linda Nanko Yeager asked if the planning commission would be willing to adjust ordinance or signage to help existing or potential businesses. Mr. Wagner thought the planning commission would be willing to adjust things if there is a need. The EDA asks Mr. Wagner to discuss with the Planning Commission members about having a workshop between the EDA and Planning Commission to get more connected.

### **3. Switch Genie – Revolving Loan Application**

Jim Lougher was present to discuss switch Genie. Switch Genie started back in 2000, they have a product that can turn on 1, 2 or 3 light fixtures in ballast. The Switch Genie rotates lights around so the lamp does not burn out at the same time. In a commercial building they have a primary switch that is a micro processor inside a box that takes the power that comes in. You would put the switch in a 6 or 8 light lamp and that would control each ballast individually. Switch Genie has written software to talk to the ballast directly and they can hook it up to most computer systems. They just completed an install at a school in the Lead, South Dakota. Mr. Lougher explained that the money savings for businesses using their product is exponential. Switch Genie is looking to rent the space from the All Safe building in the Wyoming Industrial park. Switch Genie handles all manufacturing and logistics of their product, the only thing they do not do is install the product.

Switch Genie able to equip any kind of fixture and even have the ability to control Led's. T8 fluorescent lamps are 98% of commercial buildings and are the most inexpensive piece of lighting you can purchase. Switch Genie's product can pay for a ballast in less than 2 years without any tax savings. The EDA asked have you received private financing from an institution yet. Switch Genie stated they have not been accepted by the bank for a loan yet, but we are waiting to hear from a few different institutions. The EDA likes the idea and would like to with funding but Switch Genie needs its main funding first. Chris Eng said Switch Genie and himself are working through the SBA right now trying to secure financing. Chris stated they did a complete a lighting project at the Methodist church right here in Wyoming as well. The EDA Thanked Jim Lougher for his presentation.

### **3. Chris Eng – Chisago County EDA Update and Information Regarding the Small Business Assistance Office and goals and visions for 2011**

Chris mentioned we have secured a revolving loan fund from the regional fund commission.

#### **WORK PLAN**

Medical Center – Jerry Owens would be willing to work on this goal. Jerry would be willing to speak with Fairview and talk about their long-term and short term goals. Mayor Peterson, Chris Eng and Linda Nanko Yeager would like to be a part of this as well.

Goal 2 Main Street – Eric and Nate, Chris Eng

Goal 3 Conference Center – Ted Phillips and Jerry Owens

Goal 4 – Northwest Quadrant – Ted Phillips and Nate Wilner

Goal 5 – City Staff and Chris Eng

Goal 6 – Linda Yeager and Eric Peterson

Chris Eng said that he will update the list and please talk about these between EDA members

## **5. Recommendation of candidates for vacant EDA seats-**

Mr. Soule, Mr. Jerrick and Mr. Anderson - Mayor Peterson thinks that Mr. Anderson brings a lot to the table and has been at it a long time, believes we need new blood and someone who is going to attend meetings. Mr. Owens likes the idea of having a banker on the board and has been impressed with Mr. Jerrick. Nate Wilner knows there are only two spots available, but believes that all 3 candidates are qualified. Linda Nanko Yeager stated that Mr. Jerrick and Mr. Soule are her choices, she was impressed with both Mr. Soule and Jerrick, believes they bring enthusiasm.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY EDA MEMBER PETERSON SECONDED BY EDA MEMBER NANKO-YEAGER, TO RECOMMEND CHUCK JERRICK AND MIKE SOULE AS BOARD MEMBERS” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD**

*Voting Aye: Owens, Peterson and Nanko-Yeager*

*Voting Nay: Phillips*

*Abstain: None: Wilner*

## **UPDATES –**

Linda Nanko Yeager – Will be attending the WABA meeting tomorrow.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY EDA MEMBER PHILLIPS SECONDED BY EDA MEMBER NANKO-YEAGER, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 14, 2011 “REGULAR MEETING” OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING AT 7:15 P.M.**

*Voting Aye: Phillips, Wilner, Owens, Peterson and Nanko-Yeager*

*Voting Nay: None*

*Abstain: None*