

Vergas EDA/HRA
Government Services Center & Zoom
2:00 PM on Wednesday, September 4, 2024

EDA/HRA Mission: Retain and promote business in our community, adding housing so that we prosper and increase our tax base, keeping Vergas a vital community.

The City of Vergas Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) met on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 2:00 pm in a hybrid meeting at the Vergas Government Services building and on zoom with the following members: DuWayne Ditterich, Paul Sonnenberg, Joy Summers, Vanessa Perry and Bruce Albright. Absent: none. Also Present: City Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers; SBCEA MN Regional Director Ian Carlstrom; CEDA Representative Jordan Grossman; Citizen Carol Albright and Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair DuWayne Ditterich at 2:00 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Approve agenda with the following additions: Vergas Arts Club. Motion passed unanimously.

Status of Recommendations to City Council

The council approved EDA/HRA bylaws as requested by the Authority. Approved the request to have Bookmobile park in the parking lot located on Linden. They have parked there twice, and it seems to be working.

Minutes

Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Summers to approve the minutes of August 7, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update

2024 income and expenses were reviewed. Motion by Perry, seconded by Albright to approve treasurers report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

SBDC

Regional Director, Ian Carlstrom, West Central MN SBDC presented information on workshops and training for business owners. They are a tool in our communities toolbelt. This is a free confidential service to start a business. Local support is needed to hold workshops in communities.

Vergas Arts Club

Carol Albright, Member of the Vergas Arts Club, requested EDA be the fiscal agent for the Vergas Arts Club application for Lake Region Arts Council and West Central Initiative Artists on Main St grant. This is a \$10,000.00 grant with the criteria of \$2,500 in cash or in-kind donation. Vanessa agreed to be the EDA Representative and Carol Albright will write and submit the grant. Motion by Perry, seconded by Summers for Vergas EDA be the fiscal agent for the Vergas Arts Club and to apply for the Artists on Main Street Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

CEDA First Impression Report

CEDA Representative Jordan Grossman presented information regarding applying for an Otter Tail County Community Growth Partnership Grant to provide Vergas Businesses with the ability to apply for grants up to \$5,000.00. The grant is for a matching grant of \$25,000.00. The matching money could come from the \$15,000 grant from CEDA, and \$10,000 from Community Club or city funds. Motion by Summers, seconded by Sonnenberg to recommend to Council to apply for grant for up to \$25,000.00 and to have a Vergas Grant for up to \$5,000 for improvements to the outside of buildings and interior improvements with the approval of the EDA. Motion passed unanimously. Members will find the \$10,000 needed to complete the grant match from the City, Liquor Store, EDA or Community Club.

Vergas Zoning Map

Alex Ohman, Planning Commission member supplied a proposed zoning map planning commission will recommend for Council to approve. Discussed the F zone located by the railroad. Members felt this is a wetland and it would be illegal to build. Motion by Albright, seconded by Sonnenberg to recommend to planning commission to change map to commercial from Couty Road 35 to the first residential lot along Pelican Avenue. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Perry, seconded by Sonnenberg to close the EDA/HRA meeting to discuss the sale of lots in Sunny Oaks Division. Motion passed unanimously.

All non-board members left the meeting.

Meeting minutes of the EDA/HRA closed meeting are locked in the Clerk-Treasurers office and can be opened by court order.

Chair DuWayne Ditterich opened the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Perry to accept the 2 offers as present. Motion passed unanimously.

Vergas EDA lots on Eva and Diane

Summers looked into tiny homes, but the price would still be over \$100,000. Decided to wait until spring to review if we still have lots available.

Adjourn

Adjourned meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Julie Lammers, CMC

City Clerk-Treasurer

City of Vergas

Council Recommendations:

Approve Community Grant Resolution allowing the EDA to apply for grant.

Follow up Actions

None.