



IRONWOOD

MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*

Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting Wednesday, July 6, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. in the Memorial Building Women's Club Room.

1. Director Bergman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Recording of the Roll

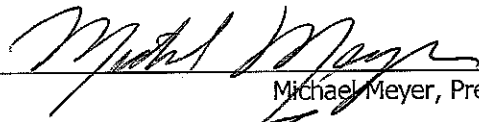
MEMBER	Present		EXCUSED	NOT EXCUSED
	YES	NO		
Thorsen, Gina	X			
Lemke, Joseph		X	X	
Korpela, Nancy	X			
Meyer, Michael	X			
Kim Corcoran	X			
Ruppe, Mark		X	X	
Schonberg, Bob	X			
Glen Ackerman-Behr	X			
Carolyn Libby	X			
Quorum	7	2	Quorum	

Also Present: Community Development Director Tom Bergman and Community Development Assistant Tim Erickson

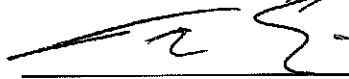
3. Approval of the June 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes:
Motion by Corcoran to accept the meeting minutes. **Second** by Korpela. **Motion Carried 7 to 0.**
4. Approval of the Agenda.
Motion by Corcoran to approve the Agenda. **Second** by Korpela. **Motion Carried 7 to 0.**
5. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding Items on the Agenda (Three-minute limit):
Steve Lehto from Michigan Works talked about the need for housing in Gogebic County along

with seeing an increase in homelessness. The County is losing out on new labor in the market. Schonberg asked why the County is seeing homelessness. Thorsen discussed the need for more supply of housing.

6. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding items not on the Agenda (Three-minute limit): Steve Lehto was asked if he had an update with the recent Michigan Works legislation.
7. Items for Discussion and Consideration.
 - A. 2022 Goals – Housing discussion next steps (who should be at the table): Bergman has obtained a print out of houses that have a water bill but haven't been using any water for the month of June. Libby discussed doing phone calls to the vacant home owners. Ackerman-Behr wants to know the reasons why the home is vacant based from the phone calls. He discussed the need for the water deposit to be reduced or removed. There is a potential to have landlord training for people who would like to rent the home. Corcoran would like a questionnaire for the Corporation members or staff to use when calling. Working with local lenders to help potential homeowners get access to funding for owning a home was discussed. They would like to form a committee from the EDC to hammer out the details for a potential plan.
 - B. Update on Downtown Development Plan and TIF Plan: The plan consultants: McKenna, will be here at the end of the month.
 - C. Adult Use Marijuana Establishment License Application Update: The City Commission will be deciding whether or not to add two additional retail licenses. One of the grow licenses is working with land work and the other ones haven't started. Libby asked about a traffic issue that she had at one of the locations and asked if there was something that zoning can do to prevent that issue. Bergman discussed the need for public safety to be involved with Libby's issue.
 - D. Zoning Ordinance Update and timeline: The final public hearing is scheduled for the next Planning Commission meeting and on the July 26th City Commission meeting. The City will be closer to being redevelopment ready communities certified.
 - E. Determine meeting duration for the EDC: The Corporation discussed what the expectation should be. A standard meeting should be an hour with potentially longer meetings acknowledged ahead of time when guest speakers are involved.
8. Other Business: Libby brought up the need to help businesses who are renting versus owning their building. Corcoran asked for the Corporation to review attendance. The Ironwood Chamber of Commerce is hosting someone from the Federal Reserve to speak at a Chamber event at the Aurora Club.
9. Next Meeting: August 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
10. Adjournment. **Motion** by Ackerman-Behr to adjourn at 11:13 a.m. **Second** by Corcoran. **Motion Carried 6 to 0.**



Michael Meyer, President



Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant