



IRONWOOD
MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*

**Proceedings of the Economic Development Corporation Meeting
Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. in the Women’s Club Room.

1. Chairman Meyer 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	X	
Korpela, Nancy	X			
Lehto, Steve	X			
Meyer, Michael	X			
Corcoran, Kim		X	X	
Raush, Ken	X			
Danielle Virshek	X			
Ackerman-Behr, Glen	X			
Libby, Carolyn	X			
Quorum	7	2	Quorum	

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

3. Approval of the May 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
Motion by Korpela to accept the meeting minutes. Second by Libby. Motion Carried 6 to 0.
4. Approval of the Agenda.
Motion by Korpela to approve the Agenda. Second by Lehto. Motion Carried 6 to 0.
5. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding Items on the Agenda (Three-minute limit): None.
6. Citizens wishing to address the Corporation regarding items not on the Agenda (Three-minute limit): Monica Benson with GCC talked about the summer youth program which is close to being full.
7. Items for Discussion and Consideration.

A. Housing.

- I. Housing Plan Update: HKGI is the new consultant for the housing plan. This company is also the consultant that is doing the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- II. Housing Commission Role: Bergman asked if any members had anything to discuss following Kathy Tanka's presentation from the last meeting.
- III. Water Study Letter Process: Bergman needs to reconfirm with the Utility Manager and the City attorney what the process will be.
- IV. Substandard Lot Development: Bergman will be meeting with Dennis. The Planning Commission will need to go through surplus property list.
- V. Alternative Structure Infill Development: Building Code Requirements: Bergman needs to learn more about the building code from Dennis Hewitt. A developer's workshop and zoning ordinance audit will be part of the housing plan.
- VI. Short-term and long-term Rental Issues: Meyer gave his thoughts on the seminar that was conducted by MSU Extension about short-term rental issues. Raush gave his thoughts as well. Ackerman-Behr brought up the need for the EDC to make a recommendation to the City and Planning Commission. Ackerman-Behr discussed the need to address short term rentals in a way that keeps them as an economic driver but also in a way that corrects the problems. Members will send ideas for ordinance development to Bergman.
- VII. Easy Access to Surplus Property Information: This item will be consolidated with other items in future agendas.
- VIII. Vacant Property Analysis: This item will be consolidated with other items in future agendas.
- IX. Blighted Properties Analysis: The city has a list of ongoing blighted properties. Funding is budgeted for demolition on an annual basis. The City needs to obtain foreclosed properties at fair market value.

B. Sale of Industrial Lot to HOPE Animal Shelter: Ackerman-Behr thought that it would be good to get proposals for the sale of the property. The offer would go to the two adjacent industrial parcel owners.

8. Other Business: Ackerman-Behr asked if the strategic housing plan will include stakeholder engagement like short term rental property owners. He would like to take a problem-solving approach instead of a combative approach to fix the issues. Having EDC and Planning Commissioners should be invited to the stakeholder meetings. Meyer asked about the timeline for the end report.


Lehto brought up an economic slowdown in the manufacturing sector across the Upper Peninsula.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday July 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment. **Motion** by Ackerman-Behr to adjourn at 10:58 a.m. **Second** by Korpela. **Motion Carried 7 to 0.**



Michael Meyer, President



Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant