

**EDA  
Minutes  
January 21, 2026**

The Owatonna Economic Development Authority met in regular session at 4:00 pm in the Charles S. Crandall Center – Chambers at City Hall with Vice President Cowell presiding. Commissioners present: Dan Boeke, Andrew Cowell, Corey Mensink, and Brian Savage. Commissioners absent: Doug Voss and Dave Burbank. Also present were Troy Klecker, Sean Williams, Brad Meier, Lisa Cochran, Glenda Smith, Mayor Matt Jessop, and Kristen Kopp.

**Approval of Minutes.** Commissioner Mensink moved approval of the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting with second by Commissioner Savage. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report.** Community Development Director Troy Klecker presented the revenue and expense reports for December.

**Loan Report.** OABDC Director Sean Williams presented the Loan Report for December. He said that Wagner's is non-current. He made his December payment, but we are still missing his November payment. Williams said he will be picking up the check from him next Tuesday.

**OACCT /OPED Report.** OACCT President Brad Meier presented the report for December. He handed out the strategic plan, which includes Tourism and MainStreet. He highlighted the focus areas including Member Communication, Championing a Strong Economy, Attracting and Retaining Talent, Restoring the Core (MainStreet), Attracting Tourism, and Resource Development. The next Made in Owatonna Day is on healthcare. OPED is going to be at the Rochester Economic Development event in February. He said that they are taking a lot of ICE related phone calls from businesses.

**MainStreet Report.** MainStreet Director Lisa Cochran presented the quarterly MainStreet Report. She handed out the 2026-2028 Strategic Goals. She said that Reggie's Bar used the Forgivable Loan and made improvements to the building. She highlighted the Strategic Plan. MainStreet is focusing on two areas: the message that a healthy downtown is vital for the whole community and the Rose Street Center. They are working on it. There are already five people who are committed to a space and several are more excited to learn about it.

**Tourism Report.** Tourism Director Glenda Smith presented the quarterly Tourism Report. She handed out the 2026-2028 Tourism Strategic Goals. She highlighted quarterly activity. She said there has been a 10% increase on overnight trips. She highlighted Placer data and where visitors are coming from. She highlighted the Strategic Goals and said elevating market position and brand identity is a top goal. Other goals are growing high-value overnight tourism, optimizing year-round demand and visitor flow, and deepening collaboration and shared value with local partners.

**OABDC Report.** OABDC Director Sean Williams presented the OABDC Report for December. He said they are moving the Connect up from Torey's to Rose Street. They are working on pitch

events for the Angel Network. The next Small Business Academy starts Monday. The online version of their software studio is available for preorder now. There were almost 250 hours of consulting in 2025. There are two manufacturers looking to locate at the Incubator.

**Airport Report.** Airport Manager Dave Beaver presented the quarterly Airport Report. He said that 2025 went well. They are now self-supporting from a budget standpoint. There are several students every week. Fountain Aviation is going well. They applied for four different Federal projects this year including paving and zoning updates. He said they have done a lot of work over the years to become a regional airport. Businesses are flying more business jets and that is the type of traffic that we want at the airport. It supports local businesses. He spoke about Advanced Air Mobility.

**EDA Projects.** Community Development Director Troy Klecker presented the EDA Projects for December. He said that they are still working on the purchase of the property with the Spitzacks and should have a purchase agreement soon. He said that he thinks that this year they should start putting improvements into the Bubba's building. He said he talked with Community Development Manager Greg Kruschke about what they can do to this building without overcommitting to something that a future buyer wouldn't want. One thing they could do is get the vault removed from under the sidewalk and put a new sidewalk in. There is a new roof on it, tuckpointing, it's been cleaned out. We'll probably get some bids on the vault removal and bring it back to the EDA. He said that they would probably want to do more with 117 Bridge Street West as well—probably interior demo work. They will get numbers on that. He said they're looking at things that would have to be done regardless. Staff is looking at demolishing 140 Fremont Street East. They will pursue bids on that for spring or summer. There will then be three lots available for a redevelopment project. The City purchased the Marco building and a closing is set up for the Kreco Car Wash in February. They will start offering that as a potential site for businesses. Ascend South has been approved by the City Council. They plan on doing demolition in March. They will do the streets first and then the building.

## **New Business.**

**Forgivable Loan: 119 Bridge Street West – Quanxi LLC / Feng - \$10,000 Interior (ADA Bathrooms).** Williams said that they did not get the application completed in time, so it will be tabled.

**Discuss Forgivable Loan Program.** Klecker said with this \$10,000 loan, there will be less than \$4,000 left. He said the number of requests is less as time goes on. It has been very popular. We don't have to decide at this meeting but need to have a conversation on whether it will be available as the construction season starts up. Mensink said he thinks it's been a great program and asked if it was possible to get a report. Klecker said they can have that available. Cowell asked if we could allocate some of those dollars to the properties the City owns and make it a bigger loan to help get these projects moving forward. Klecker said they could.

**Schedule Next Meeting.** The next EDA meeting is scheduled for **February 18, 2026** at 4:00 pm in Charles S. Crandall Center – Chambers at City Hall. Klecker said he will not be able to make that date. The Commissioners discussed changing the date of the February meeting. A motion

was made by Boeke and seconded by Mensink to change the February EDA meeting to **Wednesday, February 25, 2026**. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.