

**EDA
Minutes
November 20, 2024**

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

Vice President Voss welcomed new Commissioners Brian Savage to the EDA.

Approval of Minutes. Commissioner Boeke moved approval of the minutes of the August 21, 2024 meeting with second by Commissioner Cowell. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report. Community Development Director Troy Klecker presented the revenue and expense reports for October. He said that we're tracking pretty well, including the lodging tax revenue. The normal contracts with the OACCT and OABDC have been paid. We'll be underbudget for this year.

Loan Report. OABDC Director Sean Williams presented the loan report for October. He said that all loans are current.

OACCT / OPED Report. OACCT President Brad Meier presented the OACCT / OPED Report for October. He said workforce is in full gear. They have hired a SteeleCoWorks Coordinator—Tonya Peterson. OPED sponsored the Real Estate Journal Industrial Summit on November 6. Community Development Manager Greg Kruschke was on a panel and Owatonna had a booth. They have been reaching out to local companies including Bosch and Life Fitness. Voss said he'd like to hear more about Life Fitness at some time.

OABDC Report. OABDC Director Sean Williams presented the OABDC report for October. He said they had a kickoff meeting for the Maker Space last week and over a dozen people showed up. There was a software studio cohort in Rochester. Innovators & Business Owners Connect-up takes place the second Thursday of each month. FoamCraft moved out of the OABDC and another major manufacturer inquired about the space the same day. Owatonna Family Thrift is using the OABDC as a donation center until they are up and running.

MainStreet. MainStreet Director Lisa Cochran said she reports quarterly but likes to attend all meetings. There is a new event space downtown, which happened fairly quickly. Community Development Director Troy Klecker said that they never checked with Building Inspections on the change of use. Building Inspections will be looking at it tomorrow. There might be some issues because it will be changing from mercantile to an event space. Lisa said they have new banners are up for the holiday season and snowflakes will be going up on Cedar this week and new greenery swag on the 200 Block. The Holiday Parade is December 6. There are 75 entries, but entries are open until December 2.

EDA Projects. Community Development Director Troy Klecker presented the EDA Projects for October. He said that City staff is working on a redevelopment project near Barney Street and Oak Avenue as there is a property interested in selling. This wouldn't use EDA dollars, but the EDA would likely be involved in the redevelopment. He gave an update on the properties that the EDA owns downtown. He said that in each of those cases, something had to be done because they were getting to the point where they would possibly collapse. There are no other buildings even close to a situation like that. He said they have gone through all of the buildings and there will be more regular inspections. He said that the Ascend project is coming along well. By the end of the year, there should be some occupancy in the building.

Schedule Next Meeting. The next EDA meeting is scheduled for **December 18, 2024** at 4:00 pm. in Charles S. Crandall Center – Chambers at City Hall.

Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Cowell and seconded by Commissioner Mensink to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm. All Commissioners voting Aye, the motion passed.