

**Lanesboro Economic Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 2, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.
City Council Chambers & Zoom**

Present Members: X Tom Pursell X Linda Tacke X Joe Goetzke
 Jason Resseman Michael Boho

Staff: X Cathy Enerson X Darla Taylor X Mitchell Walbridge

Guests: Jonathan Levine, Sarah Peterson

1. **Call to Order:** City Administrator Walbridge called to order the Regular Meeting of the Lanesboro Economic Development Authority at 10:34 a.m. Member Pursell entered a motion to appoint Member Goetzke as the chairperson for the meeting; Member Tacke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. **Agenda:** Member Pursell entered a motion to approve the agenda as submitted; Member Tacke second the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. **Public Comments:** No comments were shared.
4. **Approval of the Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Minutes of the Regular EDA Meeting, April 4, 2024
 - B. April Financial ReportsMember Tacke entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Member Pursell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. **Department Reports:**
 - A. City Council/City Administrator/Planning and Zoning Report:
 - Zach Lind’s building permit application is now being considered by the city council as the Planning and Zoning Commission did not take any action on the permit application.
 - The city council is considering whether to enact an interim ordinance/moratorium regarding issuance of any new lodging licenses for short-term rentals who want to operate in the C-1 Downtown Commercial District. Member Tacke entered a motion to recommend the city council enact an interim moratorium for on issuance of any new short-term rentals or housing licenses for the downtown commercial district for six months or until potential amendments are made to the current land use ordinance; Member Pursell seconded the motion. Members discussed the importance of preserving the downtown historic commercial district and the importance of retail business in the downtown commercial district. Motion carried all in favor.
 - B. Chamber of Commerce: Member Goetzke gave the Chamber of Commerce report.
 - Chamber of Commerce board members participated in a retreat and worked on identifying their mission and goals. Board members also began work on developing a strategic plan.
 - The Lanesboro Visitors Center is open for the season.
 - Signature event posters have been distributed.
 - The Chamber will be working on new member solicitation and membership renewals soon.
 - C. School Board: Sarah Peterson gave the School Board report.
 - Spring sports, field trips, and other end of the school year activities are taking place.
 - Nick Charlebois, industrial arts instructor, took students to the La Crosse Area Builders Trades Day.
 - School district employment opportunities are posted on the school district’s website.

Approved 06/06/2024

D. Lanesboro Entrepreneur Action Network (LEAN): Cathy Enerson summarized the highlights from the April 24, 2024 LEAN meeting.

- The group intends to be proactive in seeking funding to promote vibrancy during the Highway 250 Project.
- New grant opportunities were discussed at the SEMLM meeting on April 30, 2024.
- The next LEAN meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at Paddle On Coffee.

6. Revolving Loan Fund Update: Administrator Walbridge will continue to send collection letters to those who are past due on loan payments. The EDA board awaits the results of the USDA application to recapitalize the revolving loan fund.

7. Continued Business

- A. 2024 Work Plan & Strategic Goals: Director Enerson shared the preliminary results of the survey that was taken by the city council and members of relevant boards.
- B. Data Insights: Director Enerson stated new insight data will be available in July.
- C. Riverfront Property Development: Administrator Walbridge shared the next actionable step would be for the City to consider having the city's riverfront property appraised before developing an RFP. While commercial property appraisals can be costly, getting a quote on an appraisal should be considered. Member Goetzke entered a motion to have city administration get a quote on an appraisal, have city staff develop a list of potential relocation sites for the street shop facilities, have the public works department create a design wish list for a new street shop, and that city administration communicate with Lanesboro Public School District Superintendent Matt Schultz on what the school district's plan is for a new bus garage; Member Pursell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Members having a special meeting in June to tour the municipal riverfront property.

8. New Business

- A. Vacant Building and Storage: Sample regulations were shared that can be passed along to the Planning and Zoning Commission when that commission considers developing new ordinance language.
- B. Business Interruption Loan/Mini Grants Proposal: Director Enerson explained the possibility of creating a Business Interruption Loan/Mini Grant Program for businesses and non-profit organizations due to impacts from the Highway 250 Project. Funding for the program could come from a variety of sources such as levy dollars and potential grants. Member Goetzke entered a motion to table the business item and list it as Continued Business; Member Tacke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

9. Miscellaneous

- A. Director Enerson shared the value she finds in attending meetings such as the Lanesboro Business Promotion Group as she gets to meet new business owners and share public relations tips.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Member Goetzke adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk