



# GRAND RAPIDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 22, 2024  
4:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority will be held in the City Council Chambers in the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota on Thursday, February 22nd, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL OF ROLL

PRESENT

Commissioner Al Hodnik  
Commissioner Mike Korte  
President Sholom Blake  
Commissioner Wayne Bruns  
Commissioner Tom Sutherland  
Commissioner Bill Martinetto

ABSENT

Commissioner Molly MacGregor

SETTING OF THE REGULAR AGENDA - *This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented, or to add/delete an agenda item by a majority vote of the Commissioners present .*

The Commissioners moved the Business Item 4 before Public Hearing item 3.

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the February 8th, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Bruns, second by Commissioner Martinetto to approve the minutes from the February 8th, 2024 regular meeting. The following voted in favor thereof: Hodnik, Bruns, Blake, Martinetto, Korte, Sutherland. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE CLAIMS

2. Consider approval of claims in the amount of \$3,200.00

Motion by Commissioner Hodnik, second by Commissioner Sutherland to approve claims in the amount of \$3,200.00. The following voted in favor thereof: Sutherland, Korte, Martinetto, Blake, Bruns, Hodnik. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

3. Itasca County YMCA - Childcare - Joni Namyst, Executive Director

Staff from the YMCA provided a handout highlighting the accomplishments of this last year and also the growth of the childcare program. They were awarded a 1.4 million dollar grant over the next 3 years from the Blandin Foundation. This helped provide for 64 new childcare spots along with the addition of teachers as well as start a locker room renovation project.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

4. Conduct a public hearing to consider the conveyance of certain real property to Free Range Food Cooperative.

Community Development Director Mattei provided a power point presentation outlining the scope of the project.

President Blake stated the public hearing this afternoon is to consider the conveyance of parcels 91-415-3630 and 91-41-0610 to the Free-Range Food Cooperative. Recorder Groom noted all notices required by law had been met and no correspondence has been received.

Motion by Commissioner Martinetto, second by Commissioner Sutherland to open the public hearing. The following voted in favor thereof: Hodnik, Bruns, Blake, Martinetto, Korte, Sutherland. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

Brandon Otway, 20176 Carol Street, Grand Rapids provided information on the proposed project.

Becky LaPlant, 502 Hale Lake Lane, Grand Rapids stated we have a need in our community for a food cooperative and supports the proposed project.

Ellen Smilanich, 803 NW 6th Avenue, Grand Rapids supports the proposed project.

Motion by Commissioner Bruns, second by Commissioner Martinetto to close the public hearing. The following voted in favor thereof: Sutherland, Korte, Martinetto, Blake, Bruns, Hodnik. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

#### UPDATES

Hwy 2 W corridor- Staff met with the State Aid District Engineers today and expressed concerns regarding the Hwy 2 W corridor and they were very receptive to the input provided.

Oppidan- Mr. Mattei is still working on the MFHA workforce housing development grant which is due in April.

Blocks 20&21- The developer has hired an architect to put together a concept for the project.

Downtown project planning- Staff is working on lining up the stops for the tour.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

#### MEMBERS & TERMS

Tom Sutherland - 12/31/2024 Council Representative

Molly MacGregor - 12/31/2024 Council Representative

Mike Korte - 3/1/24

Wayne Bruns - 3/1/25

Sholom Blake - 3/1/25

Al Hodnik - 3/1/27

Bill Martinetto - 3/1/27