



CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Regular Meeting
Held Remotely via ZOOM and FaceBook Live
Monday, March 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES – Approved May 3, 2021

Call to Order @ 4:00 p.m. / Roll Call

Present: Joy Gaasch (Grand Haven, MI), Bob Monetza (Grand Haven, MI), Mike Fritz (Grand Haven, MI), Eric Schmidt (Spring Lake, MI), John Hierholzer (Grand Haven, MI), Tom Braciak (Grand Haven, MI), Brook Bisonet (Grand Haven, MI), Jim Bonamy (Grand Haven, MI)

Also Present: Mike Dora, Elizabeth Butler, Amy Bessinger, Pat McGinnis

Approval of the minutes of the January 4, 2021 meeting.

Motion by Mike Fritz, second by Bob Monetza, to accept the minutes of January 4, 2021.

Yes: *Joy Gaasch, Bob Monetza, Jim Bonamy, Mike Fritz, Brook Bisonet, John Hierholzer, Tom Braciak, Eric Schmidt*

No: *None*

Motion Carries.

Call to Audience

Viewers were welcome to enter comments into FaceBook Live or call (231) 638-4087. No comments entered.

Discussion/Decision Regarding Issue Media Group Funding

City Manager McGinnis presented a power point introducing the Board to Issue Media Group. This company offers positive business news in an electronic format on a continuous basis. He explained the first year of funding (calendar year 2020) was covered by a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation/Redevelopment Ready Communities program through the Main Street Downtown Development Corporation (\$12,000). The publication embeds a professional journalist in the community and content is created all year long.

Joy reported that the Chamber would be participating in 2021 and that as a participant she has a seat on the editorial board and provides leads to the writers to promote local stories. The Main Street DDA and Spring Lake DDA have tentatively approved contributions.

Amy reported that there is cash reported in the EDC and Brownfield funds to cover this expense if needed.

Motion by Tom Braciak to appropriate \$4,000 to support the IMG Lakeshore Edition for 2021, second by Bob Monetza.

Yes: *Joy Gaasch, Bob Monetza, Jim Bonamy, John Hierholzer, Tom Braciak, Eric Schmidt*

No: *Mike Fritz, Brook Bisonet*

Motion Carries.

Harding Energy – Intro and Discussion/Decision

Harding Energy started out as a single cell battery manufacturer 30 years ago. Today they are more involved with development and logistic. Customer base is 65% medical. Design Center houses nine design engineers, and they need to show well. Steve is impressed at the volume of Grand Haven manufacturers that will support his venture when he decided to move here.

Much of his investment created a need for a variety of unexpected improvements due to code compliance at an older building. Things are coming along, and this operation will be involved with international trade around the globe! Operations should be starting up in a few weeks.

Over \$400,000 private investment by this summer. #3 manufacturer in hospital batteries, aiming for #2. Own three offshore factories with over 1,100 employees. Employees include engineers, sales, marketing and logistics. Private company – 1,650 products offered.

Motion by Tom Braciak to appropriate \$3,000 to support the purchase of a fire hydrant needed to accommodate the new water infrastructure at the new location, second by Mike Fritz.

Yes: *Joy Gaasch, Bob Monetza, Jim Bonamy, John Hierholzer, Tom Braciak, Eric Schmidt, Mike Fritz, Brook Bisonet*

No: *None*

Motion Carries.

Discussion on Policy for Use of Local Brownfield Revolving Fund Resources

A number of policies from other units of government were included in the packet for this meeting. Grand Rapids, Bay City, Washtenaw County, Livonia and Monroe were some of the examples provided.

Pat explained that Council had expressed an interest in developing a set of guidelines for the future use of resources from the Local Brownfield Redevelopment Fund.

The Board supported the use of the examples to develop a proposed policy.

Primarily loans for private development, grants for preliminary work or some combination? Public and private work? Cap on total amounts available? Staff will work on a policy for future discussion and eventual adoption.

Updates and Other Business

Finance Director Amy Bessinger reported on the following:

Peerless Flats received an invitation to apply for an EGLE grant and loan, up to \$900,000 each (\$1.8m total)

Motion by Jim Bonamy to support the application for the grant and loan from EGLE, second by Brook Bisonet

Yes: *Joy Gaasch, Bob Monetza, Jim Bonamy, John Hierholzer, Tom Braciak, Eric Schmidt, Mike Fritz, Brook Bisonet*

No: *None*

Financial Reports are as of February 22, 2021.

Boat Storage TIF Capture – last year to collect for the Local Brownfield Revolving Fund is FY21/22, after that it is going back on the tax roll.

Beechtree Land, 540 Beechtree, no TIF capture in FY21/22 – plan has expired

Call to Audience Part 2

Viewers were welcome to enter comments into FaceBook Live or call (231) 638-4087.

Adjourn

Motion by John Hierholzer to adjourn at 5:10 p.m., second by Tom Braciak.

Yes: *Joy Gaasch, Jim Bonamy, Mike Fritz, Eric Schmidt, John Hierholzer, Tom Braciak, Brook Bisonet*

No: *Bob Monetza*

Motion carries.

Next meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on April 5, 2021