



Minutes
Roseville Economic Development Authority (REDA)
City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Monday, April 27, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13.D.021, City Council members, City Staff, and members of the public participated in this meeting electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Roll Call

President Dan Roe called to order a meeting of the Roseville Economic Development Authority (REDA) in and for the City of Roseville at approximately 6:00 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Laliberte, Etten, Willmus, Groff and Roe.

Present: President Dan Roe and Board Members Robert Willmus, Jason Etten, Wayne Groff, and Lisa Laliberte.

Others Present: Attorney Martha Ingram, Executive Director Pat Trudgeon, Community Development Director Janice Gundlach, Economic Development Coordinator Joel Koepp, and Housing & Economic Development Program Manager Jeanne Kelsey

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

Willmus moved, Etten seconded, approval of the agenda as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Laliberte, Etten, Willmus, Groff and Roe.

Nays: None.

4. Public Comment

5. Business Items

a. Review Results of COVID-19 Business Survey and Discuss Next Steps

Community Development Director Janice Gundlach, Housing & Economic Development Program Manager Jeanne Kelsey and Economic Development Coordinator Joel Koepp provided a brief summary of this request as detailed in the staff report and attachments dated April 27, 2020.

President Roe thought it sounded like there is not a rental assistance program in place right now.

Ms. Kelsey indicated that was correct. The local Community Action Program (CAP) agency which serves Ramsey and Washington Counties, usually do have funds that are applied for annually, but this year CAP was not awarded any funds and there were some technical issues related to the application. CAP does have everything in place in order to assist in rental assistance if CAP does get money from either cities or the County.

Member Willmus asked if staff had any kind of timeline from the County when something may come forward.

Ms. Gundlach thought the County was going to be making some decisions by mid-May and then the city would hear from the County. She also noted staff has had a lot of discussion about timing and when it is appropriate to come out with a program and while staff was initially wanting to get this information before the EDA really quickly she has changed her opinion on that and the EDA can take a little bit more time as these businesses go through the State and Federal programs. While she would not want to wait several months, she thought it was completely appropriate to take a little more time, obviously mid-May to early June before making decisions and rolling out a program.

Member Etten asked with the CDBG funds and Multi-Family funds, was that something the city was also looking at.

Ms. Kelsey indicated staff has looked at whether there is an enhancement of some apartment buildings in the area. Staff has worked with Ramsey County in order to figure out ways to financially assist in that area as they are able to possibly move some of their CDBG funds around with some home funds. This has been taken into consideration and currently there is not a need for the city to utilize its CDBG or the HRA funds at this point.

President Roe indicated on the \$48,000 levying funds; it sounds like it is the least restrictive of the funds.

Ms. Kelsey indicated that was correct and are EDA levy funds but directed the question to EDA Attorney Ingram.

EDA Attorney Ingram explained it depends on what the EDA wants to use the levy funds for. Every fund has its own restrictions and the levy funds can be used for business assistance but would not be available for any kind of rental assistance program.

President Roe asked if any of the funds that were identified could be used for rental assistance.

EDA Attorney Ingram explained currently none of them can be used for that. The reason is that unless the city has an affordable housing trust fund set up,

there is not really any authority in the State Statute for EDAs or HRAs to provide rental assistance. That is a legal opinion that is not universally shared but as far as EDA or HRA levy funds, her firm does not believe that those are currently available for rental assistance for the City of Roseville because the city does not have an affordable housing trust fund set up.

President Roe imagined general city levy funds might be the most flexible for that sort of purpose.

Ms. Kelsey noted the CDBG funds could be used for rental assistance.

EDA Attorney Ingram apologized and indicated she thought the EDA was only talking about the levy funds but CDBG funds do have more flexibility for that purpose.

President Roe offered an opportunity for public comment with no one indicating a desire to speak to this issue.

Member Willmus thought one of the things that would be beneficial for the EDA to do is to try and dovetail in where the County has come forward with various programs and it might be best to leverage their dollars that way. He asked if staff was sure the County was going to roll out a program specific to rental assistance. If the County is planning on coming forward with some programs in May, then he would be curious to see how the EDA could best leverage its dollars to perhaps fill some gaps that are not covered.

Ms. Kelsey indicated the County has indicated it is working on programs right now. The County was originally working on a micro program which the County was going to utilize CDBG funds and in her report, that is what was initially happening last week. Then those funds were very small, there was not a lot for the County to use, and because of the County repurposing the funds for businesses there was a lot of limitation. When the County found out Friday that it could possibly be using funds from the U.S. Treasury Department, the County decided to forgo using CDBG funds and start looking at the federal dollars to help more small businesses. From the County's statistics, it knows that seventy-five percent of its businesses in Ramsey County have ten or fewer employees, fifty percent have five or fewer employees. The County is looking at having this program rolled out mid-May, hopefully by May 14th so she hoped to know more in the next two weeks what the program details would be.

Member Etten thought it would be wise at this point for the city to be listening and in contact, as staff has been doing, around the programs the County is offering as well as what work is being done at the State and potentially at the Federal level for both business loans and rental assistance. He would be in favor of watching, communicating, and being ready to respond in two to four weeks based on what is being received by people through various programs.

Member Laliberte indicated her initial thoughts were to do what is already being suggested by her colleagues and that is to figure out what is going to be happening at the State Legislature and what is going to be happening with the treasury dollars with the County. Her thoughts are that the city probably cannot come up with solutions that are going to be perfect for everybody so trying to determine where the gaps are going to be from those other programs is where the EDA can be the most effective. She also supported staying very close to this, collecting the information, and seeing where the city can build upon what others are planning.

Member Groff agreed and would be concerned with the EDA going ahead with something at this point. He did not feel like he had enough information and that things could change radically in two to four weeks.

President Roe agreed with the notion of trying to plug gaps that might become evident in some of the other available funding, both on the business and rental sides. Initially he had some thought about trying to be the interim funder of some emergency issues with rental assistance, but the practicalities of that are challenging. He was fairly hopeful that other entities are helping with that. He wondered if the city wanted to focus on certain types of costs that businesses in Roseville are seeing as it relates to having to adapt to a new model of operating under COVID-19. Some expenses that a business might not normally incur, such as plexiglass barriers, are needed but not normal expenses. He thought the consensus of the EDA Board was to wait for a couple of weeks to see where the County is at and discuss this further at that time.

6. Adjourn

Laliberte moved, Groff seconded, adjourning the REDA meeting at approximately 6:38 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Motion carried.



Daniel J. Roe, President

ATTEST:



Patrick Trudgeon, City Manager