

EMEDA

Eastern Montana Economic Development Authority

Commissioner Meeting
May 10, 2017

Members Present: Vaughn Zenko, Norton Walker, Karol Zachmann, Cameron Espinosa, Steve Zachmann

Guests: Cookie Zenko

April Meeting Minutes were presented. Cameron made a motion to accept the minutes. Karol seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Monthly Financial Report was provided. No discussion.

Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person): Cookie shared that she asked friends from out-of-town to write down what they liked about Baker. They got lost twice while here and were helped to where they were going. The friends felt the people were very nice and helpful. They were also impressed by the quick clean up from the tornado.

Director's Report:

Mona reported that she had attended the MEDA Conference last week, which was held in Great Falls. Items on the conference agenda were legislative session outcomes, a TIF presentation, and short speeches by the two State Senate candidates. Mona met with MT Dept. of Agriculture staff to discuss a local producer's project and the opportunity of Growth Through Ag grants.

The CTEP project isn't closed yet, but Peaks to Plains has received the necessary documents from the contractor to certify project completion.

Mona reported that she is working with the County Commission and a local contractor to determine if replacing the granite tiles at the Veterans Memorial is feasible or if another process should be utilized to cover the vandalism that happened several years ago when the concrete slab was poured.

Old Business:

Urban Renewal District: The City Council held the second reading for adoption of the Urban Renewal Plan ordinance on May 3rd. They adopted the ordinance. The ordinance will become effective on June 3rd. After that, Mona and Zeier Consulting will put the Plan/District packet together to send to MT Dept. of Revenue and other taxing jurisdictions.

Façade Grant Program: Mona reported that she has not had the opportunity to work on the Program documents.

Welcome Signage: Discussion was held regarding design, funding and location of signs. Mona shared photos of other communities' signs as examples. No decisions were made.

Other Old Business: Mona shared SMART's building structural engineer report. The neighbor's south interior wall is not attached, is no longer structurally necessary and can be demolished. Once the north masonry wall of the SMART building is completely exposed, the exterior needs to be assessed and most likely weatherproofed. Water is entering SMART's basement/garage areas due to exposure on the north wall. The east basement wall needs to be reinforced as soon as possible. It is distressed from earth pressure. The report provides recommendations.

New Business:

Steve reported on the Baker Lake Dewatering Meeting held on May 6th. It will take approximately 30 days to drain the Lake. It will be discharged down the creek. Pumps will be turned off if a significant amount of rain is received so as to not flood Sandstone Creek. The equipment staging area will be at the MDU property directly across from Wabasha Ave. Permit applications to Corps of Engineers, DEQ, etc. have been completed. Contractor Request for Bids process will be completed by the end of the month. It will be at least another month or two before dewatering will start. The extent of clean-up will be decided after the Lake is dewatered.

The next meeting will be held June 14th at 6pm at the SMART Office.

As there was not further Business, Cameron made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Norton seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Steve Zachmann, Chairman

Mona Madler, Executive Director