

CITY OF VERGAS EDA/HRA
Wednesday, November 4, 2020
9:00 am
Zoom Meeting

The City of Vergas Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) met on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom with the following members present: Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, Vanessa Perry and Julie Lammers. Absent: Duane Strand and Kevin Zitzow. Also present: Barbie Porter of Vergas-Frazee Forum.

Meeting was called to order by Julie Lammers as President Kevin Zitzow and Vice President Duane Strand were not present.

Approved agenda as presented.

Motion by Perry, seconded by Albright to approve November 4, 2020 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Current Budget was reviewed.

Old Businesses:

Lammers has invited Kurt Keena of the Detroit Lakes HRA to the January meeting to discuss goals in Detroit Lakes. Lammers was asked if she could get recommendations from other communities on how to proceed with moving forward with projects (would like a list of steps taken). Albright reviewed what Barnesville has done in the past with empty buildings. Discussed their Community Fund and how to raise funds for this fund.

Reviewed plans for 105 E Main Street. There is a FEMA grant for 75/25 split grant. MN USDA has a grant for purchasing and removing of the building. Fergus Falls/Otter Tail County EDA has some grant money for economic development. To move forward with these grants, we will need to have a plan for the site. Council has also asked EDA/HRA to provide a plan for the site to move forward. Discussed if we need to have an investor or someone to rent a section of the store before we can move forward. Discussed having a planning strategy meeting on how to move forward with this project. Discussed Duane Strand's drawing and what a great job he did.

Discussed structural report and a request from the realtor to have it provided to them. The City Attorney has stated if the report is going to be used as a bargaining tool, it is private information. If it is not a bargaining tool, it is public information and needs to be given to them. Board decided to give the document to the realtor as public funds were used to purchase the report, they need to know condition of the building.

New Businesses:

No new business was on the agenda.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Julie Lammers
Secretary of the EDA

****After the meeting I learned the USDA grant application is due Feb. 28, 2021 for up to \$99,000 for purchasing and removal of the building. We will need to have a planning meeting at our Jan. 6 meeting, please plan for this meeting to be a little longer than our usual meeting.**