

**Vergas EDA/HRA  
Vergas State Bank Meeting Room  
2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 7, 2023**

The City of Vergas Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) met on Tuesday, January 7, 2023 at 2:00 pm at the Vergas State Bank meeting room with the following members present: Bruce Albright, Joy Summers, Vanessa Perry, Duane Ditterich and Julie Lammers. Absent: Kevin Zitzow. Also present: Joe Clauson.

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Bruce Albright.

**Agenda Additions and Deletions**

Motion by Perry, seconded by Ditterich to approve agenda with the following additions: Rental Properties, Eva and Diane properties and THC. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

Motion by Albright, seconded by Perry to approve minutes for the December 6, 2022 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**Status of Recommendations to City Council**

None.

**Financial Update**

Lammers provided financial information for EDA/HRA.

**Old Business**

2023 Housing and Economic Goals.

Albright reviewed goals and timeline.

CEDA (Community and Economic Development Associates)

Lammers reviewed the organization CEDA, and members discussed pros and cons of hiring this firm to work with the City to enhance the EDA. Motion by Perry, seconded by Summers to invite a CEDA representative to our March meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

Rental Properties

Joe Clausen, owner of the Pelican Motel asked members if there would be interest in a motel, cabins and campground in Vergas. Members stated the housing study and the comprehensive plan have both supported a hotel in Vergas. The need is from rentals at event center, tourists, property owners not having enough room for guests, snowmobilers and fisher people (both winter and summer). Discussed properties in Vergas large enough and encouraged Clausen to proceed with plans for lodging. Albright encouraged him to return to the EDA/HRA with any questions or if we can provide any support or assistance.

THC

Otter Tail County has put a pause on the sale of THC products for up to 12 months to allow for adequate time to study this issue and develop ways to address public health and safety concerns. It also allows the legislature time to give additional direction at the state level. This may lead to restrictions like requiring a license to sell, who can sell THC products, where THC products can be displayed and regulations that could limit where THC products can be purchased. The City is allowed to approve an ordinance to sell THC with licensing and requirements, two cities who have done so are Otter Tail and Perham. The City of Vergas Council reviewed an ordinance to allow the sale of THC in Vergas and voted against it due to the inability to regulate the sales. Committee members agreed with Council this issue will need to be reviewed by the County before Council should enact an ordinance to sell THC. We need to protect our businesses and we do not have viable resources to do so at this time.

Eva Street and Diane Avenue Properties

Lammers provided financial data regarding tax forfeited lots and Albright explained he would be meeting with Lammers to write letter. Perry stated she has contact with representatives and will also look into getting information on how the EDA/HRA could obtain the lots.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Julie Lammers

City Clerk-Treasurer

City of Vergas

**Council Recommendations**

None.

**Follow up Actions.**

Lammers with assistance from Albright will construct a letter to Senate, House and MN Tax Exempt regarding tax forfeited lots on Eva and Diane.

Lammers to add Give to the Max Fundraiser to the August meeting agenda.

Lammers invite CEDA Representative to March meeting.

DRAFT