

**Vergas EDA/HRA
Government Services Center
2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

The City of Vergas Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 2:00 pm in a hybrid meeting at the Vergas Government Services building and on zoom with the following members present in person: Bruce Albright, Duane Ditterich and Paul Sonnenberg. Members present on zoom: Joy Summers. Absent: Vanessa Perry. Also Present: City Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers, Vergas Community Fund Members; Sherri Hanson, Daren Berube, Lee Dahlgren and West Central Initiative Community Philanthropy Officer Samantha VanWechel-Meyer; and Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Bruce Albright at 2:00 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Approved agenda as presented.

Vergas Community Fund Committee

Albright reviewed the request for the Community Fund members to attend the meeting. The Vergas Community Fund began by raising funds for the park boardwalk. Board Chair of the Vergas Community Fund Committee Sherri Hanson reviewed the past fundraising events and discussed possibilities for future fundraising for the community. The committee is discussing members for fundraising efforts and suggested they recruit members at the Vergas EDA/HRA Annual Meeting. Samantha VanWechel-Meyer stated she would speak at the annual meeting, and it could be our kickoff to fundraising for 2024.

(Ditterich joined the meeting and assumed his position as chair.)

Minutes

Motion by Albright, seconded by Sonnenberg to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024. Voting yes: Albright, Ditterich, Summers and Sonnenberg. Voting No: none. Motion carried.

Financial Update

Lammers reviewed the 2024 income and expenses.

Old Business

2023 and 2024 Housing and Economic Goals.

Lammers was asked to email the past goals to the authority members. They will be reviewed in March. Lammers will update current information and change it to 2024 dates.

HRA Lots on Eva and Diane in Vergas

Albright reviewed the contract with Otter Tail County. They have given the city the financial guidelines; not the state of MN. The board asked Lammers to speak with Amy Baldwin and Wayne Johnson regarding income guidelines and invite them to the March meeting.

Vergas Zoning Map

Sonnenberg reviewed his thoughts regarding land within the city limits which could be used for development. Authority members reviewed property along Townline Road which could be developed if property owners would sell. All EDA/HRA members should bring a colored map to the March meeting to discuss zoning ideas.

CEDA Grant

Lammers informed members the EDA/HRA has received the grant from CEDA for the Business Retention and Expansion Program. Discussed asking Jordan Grossman, CEDA Representative for the City of Vergas, to speak at the 2024 annual meeting.

New Business

March Meeting Date

Due to the Preliminary Primary Elections on March 5, 2024 the meeting for the EDA/HRA needs to be moved as no meetings can be held between 7 am and 8 pm on March 5, 2024. Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Albright to move the March meeting to March 12, 2024. Voting yes: Albright, Ditterich, Summers and Sonnenberg. Voting No: none. Motion carried

Adjourn

Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Ditterich to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m. Voting yes: Albright, Ditterich, Summers and Sonnenberg. Voting No: none. Motion carried.

Julie Lammers
City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Vergas

Council Recommendations

None.

Follow up Actions.

All members bring 1-2 ideas for goals in 2024 with measurable results.

Lammers to provide lists of opportunities from WCI and Otter Tail County.

Lammers to speak with Amy Baldwin and Wanye Johnson with Otter Tail County regarding income limits.

All members bring a color-coded map to the next meeting to discuss zoning in Vergas.