

**Vergas EDA/HRA
Government Services Center & Zoom
2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 6,
2024**

EDA/HRA Mission: Retain and promote business in our community, adding housing so that we prosper and increase our tax base, keeping Vergas a vital community.

The City of Vergas Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) met on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 2:00 pm in a hybrid meeting at the Vergas Government Services building and on zoom with the following members: Paul Sonnenberg, Joy Summers, and Bruce Albright. Absent: Vanessa Perry and DuWayne Ditterich. Also Present: City Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers; CEDA Representative Jordan Grossman; Julie Bruhn and Editor Bob Williams of the Frazee-Vergas Forum.

Call to Order

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

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Approve agenda with the following additions: fence, handicapped parking and advertising. Motion passed unanimously.

Status of Recommendations to City Council

Albright stated the Council approved ending the tax abatement program as of December 31, 2024. This coincides with Otter Tail County.

Minutes

Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Summers to approve the minutes of October 2 and October 24, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update

2024 income and expenses were reviewed by Lammers. Motion by Sonnenberg, seconded by Summers to approve treasurers report as presented.

New Business

Daycare

Mayor Julie Bruhn explained that as of March 2025 the City of Vergas will be without a daycare. She has discussed with Otter Tail County and West Central Initiative and is looking into granting funds. A daycare group has been established and they will be meeting with Jesus Little Lambs on Nov. 11. Grossman stated she could use the hours she has left from the CEDA grant to work on the daycare concern. Grossman will attend the meeting and keep EDA/HRA informed.

Old Business

CEDA First Impression Report

CEDA Representative Jordan Grossman presented \$15,000 from CEDA, \$5,000 from Vergas Community Club and \$5,000 from Vergas State Bank for the commercial grant. Applications are available and will be advertised at the Vergas Community Club Meeting, Vergas Council Meeting, Facebook and on the city web page.

Vergas EDA lots on Eva and Diane

3 lots will be sold on November 15.

EDA Funding Ideas

Discussed marina and looking for a developer to place a marina in Long Lake. Discussed adding a spec house to one of the lots at Sunny Oaks. Lammers was asked to find cost for a Dynamic Home.

Fence

The parking signs advertising the public parking will be put away for the winter, discussed if signs were needed on the new fence put in by the City. The committee recommended leaving the signs on each end of the fence as we do not want to endanger the fence. A sign can be put up after the lot is paved.

Handicapped Parking

The Street/Sidewalk/Yard Waste Committee is reviewing the idea of adding handicapped parking on Main Street. The County has stated they would approve spots along Main Street by Railway Avenue. Albright asked Lammers to speak with the Hardware Store and Billy's to see how they feel about having handicapped parking in front of their business. Summers stated they would like a handicapped parking spot in their parking lot. Albright will bring information to the Street/Sidewalk/Yard Waste Committee meeting.

Advertising

Lammers presented a layout for the sign on Hwy 10 by Wal-Mart the HRA approved putting up for 4 weeks. Summers asked Lammers if she was aware of the Impact Poster Program and Lammers stated she would look into it. Members requested Live, Love Live be removed from sign as well as the Economic Development. Lammers will proceed with sign for 4 weeks beginning November 12, 2024.

Adjourn

Motion by Summers, seconded by Sonnenberg to adjourn meeting at 3:12 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Julie Lammers, CMC
City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Vergas

Council Recommendations:

None.

Follow up Actions

Jordon Grossman, CEDA to present grant at Council Meeting on Nov. 12.

Jordon Grossman, CEDA to follow up on daycare in Vergas.

Lammers to proceed with sign advertising.

Lammers to get cost to bring in Dynamic Home.

Lammers to speak with Billy's and Hardware Store regarding parking.