

**City of West St, Paul
Economic Development Authority Minutes
May 23, 2016**

1. Call to Order

President David Meisinger opened the regular EDA meeting at 9:54 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: President David Meisinger and Commissioners Pat Armon, Ed Iago, Jay Bellows, Dave Napier, Dick Vitelli and Jenny Halverson.

Others: City Manager Matt Fulton, Executive Director/Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn, City Attorney Korine Land, Finance Director/Treasurer Joan Carlson and City Clerk/Secretary Chantal Doriott.

3. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented with the addition of a Beirut Restaurant discussion.

4. EDA Consent Agenda Items

A. Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2016

B. April Budget Report

Motion was made by Com. Vitelli and seconded by Com. Halverson to approve the meeting minutes of May 9 and the April Budget Report as presented. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

5. Commissioner Comments

Com. Armon said "Shop Robert".

6. New Business

6.A. Proposed Changes to Commercial Replacement Sign Grant Program

Executive Director Jim Hartshorn gave an overview of proposed changes discussed at the last meeting to the commercial sign replacement program policy. Commissioners reviewed a copy of said changes.

Motion was made by Com. Iago and seconded by Com. Halverson to approve the proposed changes to the Commercial Sign Grant Program policy as presented. Coms. Iago, Armon, Napier, Halverson and Vitelli voted aye. Com. Bellows voted nay. Motion carried.

6.B. Sign Replacement Grant Application - 992 Robert Street (Bernard Plaza)

Executive Director Jim Hartshorn gave an overview of a sign replacement grant application for Bernard Plaza at 992 Robert Street. The sign meets the new program policy for a total cost of \$12,213.00 for the monument sign. The application requests reimbursement of \$6,106.50 for the new monument sign.

Comments:

- Com. Napier said this fits the spirit and he supports the new sign and application.
- Com. Bellows is not in favor as the purpose of the original ordinance is to get rid of pylon signs.
- Com. Iago asked where this sign would face. Director Hartshorn said it is facing Robert Street in front of the building, out front by parking.

Motion was made by Com. Vitelli and seconded by Com. Halverson to approve the sign request grant application for Bernard Plaza, 992 Robert Street in the amount of \$6,150.00. Coms. Iago, Vitelli, Halverson, Napier and Armon voted aye. Com. Bellows voted nay. Motion carried.

Beirut Restaurant Discussion (Addition to agenda)

- Com. Armon referenced Director Hartshorn's Friday recap email in which Beirut Restaurant was mentioned. It is super important that we keep this restaurant in West St. Paul said Com. Armon.
- President Meisinger said the owner approached him and he has information on relocation next door.
- Com. Halverson said she would support doing something to keep them here.
- Com. Bellows is in favor of offering assistance to keep them here. What do they want to do? It's a little odd that we just gave him sign assistance and now he may move. Maybe there is more to this than we know.
- Com. Iago said one problem is the strip of property along the northern part of their property. Several months ago that could be a resolved issue; that was close to being resolved. Now the restaurant wants to own their own building and stay there. They would like to buy an easement from Menards and expand their business.
- Com. Napier is in support of keeping them here
- Com. Armon wants to make sure we are proactive. Director Hartshorn stated he has met with the owners and their preference is to expand their current facility. In order to do that, they will need to purchase an easement located on the north side of their building from Menards. Director Hartshorn agreed to contact Menards for them to ask if they would be willing to sell the property.

6.C. Closed Session to Discuss Purchase Offer for five EDA properties

- 270 Annapolis Street East
- 804 Dodd Road
- 158 Haskell Street
- 831 Deppe Street
- 848 Allen Avenue

Motion was made by Com. Bellows and seconded by Com. Iago to close the meeting pursuant to MN State Statute to discuss a purchase order for the five properties outlined above. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Com. Bellows and seconded by Com. Iago to reopen the meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

7. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

8. Adjourn

Motion was made by Com. Halverson and seconded by Com. Iago to adjourn the EDA meeting at 9:55 p.m. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Chantal Doriott

Chantal Doriott
City Clerk/Secretary
City of West St. Paul