

City of Hastings
Downtown Development Authority
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023

1. Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call—

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Woods

Roll Call –

Present: Baker, Bolthouse, Button, Hatfield, Tossava, Wiswell, Woods

Absent: Albrecht, Ulberg

City Staff and Appointees: King, Merrick, Moyer-Cale, Nesbitt, Ponsetto

Others Present:

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Approval/Additions/Deletions to Agenda –

Woods added discussion of local billboard vendor as Item C. under Old Business

Motion by Wiswell, second by Hatfield, to approve the agenda as amended

All ayes, motion carried

4. Approval of Minutes –

Motion by Wiswell, second by Hatfield, to approve the minutes as presented

All ayes, motion carried

5. Financial Statements & Budget for Review –

King said budget data has been updated through February 28, 2023; staff is working with Clerk/Treasurer during March and April compiling budget information for the 2023/2024 fiscal year

6. Façade and BEIG Update-

King said there were no updates

7. Open Public Comment and Discussion – None

8. Old Business-

A. Review and Consider Approval of DDA Development and TIF Plan Amendments-

Board reviewed and discussed amendments to the DDA Development and TIF plan with City Staff

B. Review and Consider Adoption of Resolution Approving Amendments-

Motion by Wiswell, second by Hatfield, to approve the adoption of the resolution approving and recommending Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan to City Council

Ayes: Baker, Bolthouse, Button, Hatfield, Tossava, Wiswell, Woods

Nays:

Absent: Albrecht, Ulberg

All ayes, motion carried

C. Discussion of Contracting with Owner of Local Billboard-

After discussion, the board directed City Staff to contact the owner of the local billboard to let him know that when the DDA's current contract is due to expire he is welcome to submit a proposal per the specs of the RFP

9. New Business

A. Review and Consider Expenditure for Barry County Fair Booth-

Motion by Hatfield, second Baker, to approve the expenditure of \$440.00 to rent a booth at the Barry County Fair; King said City Staff has contacted both the Village of Middleville and Thornapple Township to determine if they would be willing to split the cost equally with the City

10. DDA Member Comment –

Tossava said some business owners had expressed concern about graffiti wall proposed by the Thornapple Arts Council (TAC) for the rear wall of one of the downtown businesses; he asked if the City had an ordinance regulating that type of project; City staff said the only time City ordinance would come into effect is if the content of the graffiti became signage; Staff was directed to contact TAC regarding downtown merchant and building owners concern about the wall

Wiswell asked staff if the Thornapple Garden Club had been notified that several of the Adopt a Corner plots would be eliminated with the construction of the new streetscape; Tossava and City Staff have spoken with the president of the Garden Club, who is aware of it

Woods said the Garden Club is promoting pollinator gardens, possibly for downtown but is starting with a few beds at Kellogg Community College

Baker said that during the downtown streetscape open house on Monday, March 13, 2023, there were many comments and concerns about loss of parking with the addition of mid-block crossings; she asked if there

were plans to repave Parking Lot 8; Moyer-Cale said the DPS Director is in the process of redesigning the project after the bids received for the RFP last fall exceeded the City's budget for the project

11. Open Public Comment and Discussion –

Merrick said due to streetscape construction this summer, no MSI sculptures would be displayed on State St. in the Downtown Business District

12. Adjournment

Motion by Tossava, second by Baker, to adjourn

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Patty Woods, Chair

Deb Button, Secretary

Prepared by: Sandra Ponsetto, City of Hastings