

City of Braham
EDA Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2020
City Council Chambers

Call to Order: Grafstrom called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm

Members Present: Administrator Grafstrom, Council members Tish Carlson and Shawn Sullivan, Becky Turnquist, Seth Zeltinger and Loren Nelson.

Others in attendance: Jordan Zeller of ECRDC, Mark Nelson from ECE, Kelby Jennissen and Marshall Lind.

Grafstrom opened the meeting by noting the awning downtown is gone. Everyone noted how much nicer it looks along 107 with the awning gone. They are all excited about the steps we are all taking to beautify the city.

Approval of Minutes from 10-14-2019 Meeting

Motion made by Sullivan to approve the minutes of the 10-14-20 meeting. Seconded by Zeltinger and carried unanimously.

Guest: Sarina Otaibi with Rethos did not show up. Turnquist asked if she would attend the April 14 Chamber meeting at 6 pm. Grafstrom said she would give Turnquist some information to take to the chamber and she would check with Ms. Otaibi.

Industrial Park Lots

Committee and other guests discussed the options for development of the industrial park lots. Nelson from ECE noted they do have some revolving loan fund money available. It was discussed whether the lots should be sold or given away. The group also discussed the ERCOA lots. Carlson asked Grafstrom to identify some of the places she has reached out to regarding development or growth in Braham. Grafstrom has emailed Kwik Trip, Casey's General Store, and Quality Disposal. She spoke to PICK, visited with Loren Davis about someone he knows that might be interested in an industrial park lot, and contacted Black Top Holdings, a startup mostly interested in a building but who would consider Braham depending on what we could offer. She also contacted Welia Health about a clinic and/or a pharmacy, but never even got a call or email back. Zeller told Grafstrom to contact Randy Ulseth as Welia. Nelson of ECE commented that a few years ago everyone was looking for land, but the current trend is people looking for empty buildings. All we can do is keep asking and putting the information out there. Grafstrom will get some ideas from how other communities handle incentives or loans to sell their properties. Grafstrom would like to see the city

give away the lots or create a deferred loan contingent on breaking ground within 1 year and being operational within 2. The city has been paying taxes on the property for about 2 years already. The committee also discussed the vacant, privately owned properties like the lumber yard and the Fieldhouse. Committee discussed options to promote Braham and attract businesses. Sullivan wondered about the city hiring a realtor. He believes Cambridge uses a realtor. Grafstrom will check with Cambridge Administrator Wolfe. Zeller said he will help to promote, and we should also visit with Kanabec County EDA representative Heidi Steinmetz.

Grafstrom suggested the committee plan to meet before the next council meeting so we have something to recommend to council on how we should proceed with the lots. Grafstrom will try to reach Otaibi at RETHOS and see if we can also get her to reschedule as well.

Adjourn

There being no further business of the City of Braham EDA, Sullivan motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Carlson and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm.