



GRAND RAPIDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, December 14, 2023
4:00 PM**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority will be held in the City Council Chambers in the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 4:00 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

CALL OF ROLL

PRESENT

Commissioner Al Hodnik
Commissioner Tasha Connelly
Commissioner Wayne Bruns
Commissioner Bill Martinetto

ABSENT

Commissioner Mike Korte
President Sholom Blake
Commissioner Tom Sutherland

SETTING OF THE REGULAR AGENDA - *This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented, or to add/delete an agenda item by a majority vote of the Commissioners present .*

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the November 9th, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Connelly, second by Commissioner Martinetto to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2023 regular meeting. The following voted in favor thereof: Bruns, Connelly, Hodnik, Martinetto. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE CLAIMS

2. Consider approval of claims in the amount of \$991,755.34.

Motion by Commissioner Bruns, second by Commissioner Connelly to approve claims in the amount of \$991,755.34. The following voted in favor thereof: Martinetto, Hodnik, Connelly, Bruns. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Bruns, second by Commissioner Martinetto to approve payment in the amount of \$167.00 to Andy's Garage Door & Awning. The following voted in favor thereof: Bruns, Connelly, Hodnik, Martinetto. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Connelly, second by Commissioner Martinetto to approve payment in the amount of \$400.00 to Michael Russell. The following voted in favor thereof: Martinetto, Hodnik, Connelly, Bruns. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Bruns, second by Commissioner Martinetto to approve payment in the amount of \$40,000.00 to Kreklow Enterprises. The following voted in favor thereof: Bruns, Connelly, Hodnik, Martinetto. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Connelly, second by Commissioner Bruns to approve payment in the amount of \$50,000.00 to Kreklow Enterprises. The following voted in favor thereof: Martinetto, Hodnik, Connelly, Bruns. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

3. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a Blandin Foundation Grant for the Downtown Organization Project

Community Development Director Mattei provided background information.

Motion by Commissioner Bruns, second by Commissioner Martinetto to adopt a resolution accepting a Blandin Foundation Grant for the Downtown Organization Project. The following voted in favor thereof: Bruns, Connelly, Hodnik, Martinetto. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider approval of a professional service agreement with Economic Development Services, Inc. for assistance with the Downtown Organization Project.

Motion by Commissioner Connelly, second by Commissioner Bruns to approve a professional service agreement with Economic Development Services, Inc. The following voted in favor thereof: Martinetto, Hodnik, Connelly, Bruns. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

5. 2024 GREDA Work Plan Discussion

The Commissioners reviewed the current workplan and also added new items for 2024.

- Continue to work with Voyager Capital/Hwy 35 on current and future development.
- Continue to market GREDA services.
- Continue to support the ASV/Yanmar current and future expansion.
- Lead/Partner and support initiatives addressing the local workforce/childcare shortage.
- Lead/Partner initiatives for local housing shortage.
- Begin implementation of Downtown Plan.
- Expand industrial site inventory.
- Continue to advocate for Hwy 2 improvements.
- Assist with ADA improvements for business city wide.
- Assist with Boswell site redevelopment.
- Continue to support medical services.
- Pursue initiatives that would support existing and new wood product industries.

- Continue to diversify GREDA membership and include updates from local partners/organizations.
- Engage young Entrepreneurs.
- Airport reactivation.
- Replenish GREDA capital funds.
- Central School strategic plan.
- Hwy 35 secondary effects.
- Education MN North/Hwy 35 industry.
- Blocks 20&21.

UPDATES

L&M- The closing is set for Friday, December 15.

Hwy 35- Staff met with the Governor's office and provided a presentation on the project. There was also a meeting with the design team from Hwy 35.

ADJOURN

MEMBERS & TERMS

Tom Sutherland - 12/31/2023 Council Representative

Tasha Connelly - 12/31/2023 Council Representative

Mike Korte - 3/1/24

Wayne Bruns - 3/1/25

Sholom Blake - 3/1/25

Al Hodnik - 3/1/27

Bill Martinetto - 3/1/27