



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: March 11, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Consider adopting a resolution accepting a grant from the MN Dept. of Iron Range Resources Commercial Redevelopment Program

PREPARED BY: Rob Mattei, Director of Community Development

BACKGROUND:

The Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority (GREDA) is working with Sam Evans, owner of Evans Insurance Agency in the redevelopment of a site in Downtown Grand Rapids. This site, the 300 block on the north side of TH2/TH169 near the Itasca County Courthouse, is identified as an opportunity site for redevelopment in the recently completed update of the Grand Rapids Downtown Plan.

The project involves a site that includes two parcels. The former use of one parcel was a gas station and café. The prior demolition also involved the MPCA approved remediation of a registered Brownfield site through removal of buried tanks and cleanup of associated ground contamination. The other parcel the site is comprised of, 311 NE 4th St., includes a vacant 1,200 sq. ft. substandard, blighted, brick building constructed in 1915.

The Evans Insurance project will require the demolition of the existing structure in order to accommodate the development of the site as planned, which includes a new 1,664 sq. ft. building, paved parking area, solar array and a landscaped pocket park with a pollinator garden, pathways, and picnic tables.

The City Council previously authorized an application to the MN Dept. of Iron Range Resources Commercial Redevelopment Program to fund expenses for the demolition of the vacant building. The City has received notice that the grant request has been awarded in the amount of \$30,000.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to adopt the resolution accepting a grant from the MN Dept. of Iron Range Resources Commercial Redevelopment Program and authorize the Mayor to execute the grant contract.