

**UNAPPROVED**

**CITY OF BLAINE  
BLAINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Monday, December 21, 2020

Blaine City Hall  
Council Chambers  
10801 Town Square Drive

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15PM by President Ryan followed by the Roll Call. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

**PRESENT:** President Tom Ryan, Commissioners Andy Garvais, Wes Hovland, Julie Jeppson, Richard Paul, Jess Robertson, and Dick Swanson.

**ABSENT:** None.

Quorum Present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Public Works Director Jon Haukaas; Police Chief/Safety Services Manager Brian Podany; Finance Director Joe Huss; Public Services Manager/Assistant City Manager Bob Therres; City Engineer Dan Schluender; City Planner Lori Johnson; Recreation Manager Nate Monahan; Communications Technician Roark Haver; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by Commissioner Robertson, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, that the Minutes of December 7, 2020, be approved.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion adopted 6-0-1 (Commissioner Hovland abstained).

**NEW BUSINESS**

Finance Director Huss requested Item 4.2 be discussed prior to Item 4.1.

4.2 EDA Resolution No. 20-17, Authorize the Blaine Economic Development Authority, Having all the Powers of a Housing Redevelopment Authority, to Levy a Property Tax Upon the Taxable Property in the City of Blaine for 2021.

Moved by Commissioner Garvais, seconded by Commissioner Jeppson, that Resolution No. 20-17, “Authorize the Blaine Economic Development Authority, Having all the Powers of a Housing Redevelopment Authority, to Levy a Property Tax Upon the Taxable Property in the City of Blaine for 2021,” be approved.

Community Development Director Thorvig stated Minnesota statutes allow special taxing districts to certify property tax levies on all real property within their jurisdiction. The Blaine Economic Development Authority (EDA) functions as a special taxing district and is therefore, authorized to levy taxes under state law. From the City's most recent Comprehensive Plan, Blaine will encourage "through land use and the City's EDA (Economic Development Authority), development that creates access to sustainable jobs for the residents of Blaine. Development of corporate offices, professional and financial services, research, medical manufacturing and medical services, education and emerging industrial technology will be focal points in helping to create a well-balanced and vital economy for the City and its residents." The City, through the EDA, will "dedicate staff resources to monitoring the economic health of the City and assisting businesses in relocation or expansion within the City." Earlier this year, City Finance staff conducted a thorough analysis of the EDA fund and on September 21, the EDA gave preliminary approval for a 2021 property tax levy of \$700,000. At subsequent budget discussions, the EDA confirmed this levy amount, and at the annual Truth-in-Taxation hearing, the EDA directed staff to bring forward this dollar amount as the 2021 EDA property tax levy.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion adopted 6-1 (Commissioner Robertson opposed).

#### 4.1 EDA Resolution No. 20-16, Adopting the 2021 EDA Fund Budget.

Moved by Commissioner Hovland, seconded by President Ryan, that Resolution No. 20-16, "Adopting the 2021 EDA Fund Budget," be approved.

Finance Director Huss stated the EDA discussed its 2021 budget at a number of Blaine City Council workshops throughout 2020. The budget presented herein reflects the 2021 budget for which the EDA has given conceptual approval. Under a separate resolution, and in association with the attached resolution, the EDA adopted its 2021 property tax levy.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion adopted unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Paul wished all Blaine residents, staff members and City Councilmembers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by President Ryan, seconded by Commissioner Swanson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:21PM.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion adopted unanimously.

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Tom Ryan, President

ATTEST:

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Catherine Sorensen, City Clerk

*Submitted by Minute Maker Secretarial*