

**ROSEMOUNT PORT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING PROCEEDINGS
OCTOBER 18, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the Rosemount Port Authority was held on October 18, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 2875 145th Street West, Rosemount.

Chair Weisensel called the meeting to order with Commissioners Droste, Wolf, Smith, Abdulahi and DeBettignies attending. Staff present included City Administrator Johnson, Community Development Director Lindquist and City Clerk Hadler. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

City Administrator Johnson stated there were no changes to the agenda.

Motion by Weisensel. **Second** by Abdulahi.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY/AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Abdulahi noted comments that he had sent to the Chair and inquired if the minutes could be amended to reflect the comments since he could not attend the meeting with those comments. Ms. Lindquist read the comments:

1) The dealership item is not clear to me but after re-reading few times, I extrapolated that owner of the property at Polfus has used car dealer and would like to have it move it larger site (4.09 Acre) along current business in Polfus.

My suggestion is great idea if the property appraised fairly and the new owner is ok with all risks that come with a landfill.

2) The budget was another item not completely clear. I asked improvement investment for the sign in the business park. I don't see it as an item but it's perhaps embedded in one of the items (Additional market dollars \$12K perhaps).

Ms. Lindquist responded to his questions. Therefore the items emailed will be noted in the October minutes based upon the current discussion.

Motion by Weisensel. **Second** by Wolf.

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

a. Approval of September 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Ayes: Droste, Wolf, Weisensel, Smith, Abdulahi, DeBettignies

Nays: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

4.a. Review of Economic Development Website and Business List

Community Development Director Lindquist discussed a webinar she had attended and noted a few recommendations for improving the city's economic development pages of the website. She noted the creation of a business directory on the city's website.

Commissioner Abdulahi inquired about the purpose of the business directory. Ms. Lindquist explained that it was simply a way to publicize local businesses. Chair Weisensel reiterated that fact, and that maybe the city could add the length of time the business has been around. Ms. Lindquist stated she could inquire if this was something they would be interested in.

Commissioner Smith asked if businesses could add a description of any length. Mr. Johnson responded he would have to follow up, but the first businesses have not submitted extensive descriptions.

Chair Weisensel inquired if the City should have a separate Economic Development website and noted concepts that should be considered.

Commissioner Droste asked if we were recreating the efforts of the Chamber. Commissioner DeBettignies noted that the Chamber listing is only available to Chamber members and the City's is for all Rosemount businesses.

Chair Weisensel gave Commissioners an opportunity to comment on the issues that Ms. Lindquist noted from the webinar. Ms. Lindquist stated she believes the information provided on the current website is the right information, but maybe it's not as timely as it could be, though the City doesn't necessarily have the staff to be able to update it as often as the webinar suggested.

Chair Weisensel inquired about the concept of the "micro site". Mr. Johnson stated he felt the concept has some possibilities, though it may not provide much more information than what is currently available. Commissioners discussed current tools like Zoom Prospector and ESRI. Chair Weisensel inquired how current the information is on the website. Mr. Johnson explained that most of it is from 2016. Commissioner Droste noted that site selectors and realtors use services to look for sites, not the City's website. Ms. Lindquist noted that some land owners may not list their property with brokers, though they might be casually marketing it for sale by owner.

Chair Weisensel discussed how the City performs in terms of its economic development marketing. Ms. Lindquist noted that site selectors look at demographics, etc., and they will look at the city more closely if we fit the company's demographic needs.

Ms. Lindquist discussed the Xcel Shovel Ready Program and its strengths.

Commissioner Droste discussed the University's sale of land to Opus for business development and how businesses who might locate there will evaluate the location.

Chair Weisensel discussed the opportunity for storytelling for businesses in the community.

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Commissioner Abdulahi suggested moving forward with a couple of items in the list provided in the packet, like the micro sites.

Commissioner Droste noted the storytelling opportunities regarding the solar farm and the wind turbine. He noted the values of “Millennials” regarding environmental causes. Chair Weisensel noted that Wayne Transport uses biofuels. Commissioner Droste noted Progressive Rail has a weekly update.

Chair Weisensel discussed the opportunity to discuss the “greater Rosemount” area and amenities available to residents of Rosemount, such as shopping, the Minnesota Zoo, etc.

4.b. Xcel Energy Shovel Ready Program

Community Development Director Lindquist provided a brief summary of Xcel’s Shovel Ready Program. She discussed the sites that are being looked at for the program. Ms. Lindquist explained the criteria that make a site “shovel ready”. The purpose is to make a site ready to develop with very little additional due diligence necessary to move forward.

Commissioner Abdulahi asked about the connection to Xcel Energy to a shovel ready program. Ms. Lindquist explained that Xcel has to spend money on economic development, and they market the area to companies looking for property, especially those who are large energy users, such as data centers. Commissioner Wolf expanded that commentary and explained that Xcel will sell more energy to developed land than non-developed.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chair Weisensel inquired if commissioners were interested in having a work session to discuss some of the items, such as the storytelling. He suggested the first Tuesday in November. Commissioners noted whether they were available; Commissioners Wolf and Smith are not available. It was decided to have a work session on November 1, at 5:30 pm.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

REPORTS FROM PORT AUTHORITY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Droste discussed a letter he had sent to ProtoLabs supporting expansion of their business, particularly in Rosemount.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Port Authority and upon a motion by DeBettignies, second by Smith, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clarissa Hadler, City Clerk