

WABASHA PORT AUTHORITY AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
City of Wabasha

Minutes of the December 9, 2014, meeting:

BOARD MEMBERS:	Vicki Moore	President
	Rolf Thompson	Vice President
	Atty. Mark Jarstad	Treasurer
	Marty Wilson	
	Mayor Rollin Hall	
	Charles Bricher	
	Amy Gaedtke	

STAFF:	Chad Springer	City Administrator
	Susan Schamaun	City Clerk
	Kristi Clarke	City Planner

The Regular Meeting of the Wabasha Port Authority and Development Agency was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at City Hall and was called to order by Vicki Moore at 4:00 pm.

Roll call found all members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Marty Wilson and Attorney Mark Jarstad moved to approve the November 10, 2014, regular minutes as presented. Adopted unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

November financials were presented. City Administrator Chad Springer was absent.

Mayor Hall and Marty Wilson moved to table November's Financial Report. Adopted unanimously.

It was stated City Administrator, Chad Springer, would review November and December financials at the January 2015 meeting.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

The following bills were presented for payment:

- 1) City of Wabasha - \$1,000.00 Staff Support
- 2) City of Wabasha - \$6.72 – Postage Reimbursement
- 3) Bradley & Deike - \$51.00 – Review Preliminary Agreement
- 4) Vision Design Group - \$105.00 – Wabasha Community Foundation Website Quarterly Hosting

Mayor Hall and Rolf Thompson moved to approve payment of bills as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Vicki Moore gave a brief description of the Port Authority levy and various bills to new member Ms. Amy Gaedtke.

Rolf Thompson stated it may be helpful to have an orientation packet/presentation in January for new Port Authority members.

INTRODUCTION: ED MCBRIDE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WABASHA CHAMBER:

Mr. Ed McBride gave a brief presentation on his background. He stated he is focusing on commerce, visitors and residents. He would like to bring in new events particularly in the winter months in Wabasha and strengthening Wabasha's current events and maintaining what is working well. He would like to draw families to Wabasha and feels it is a unique community. He has worked in assessment capacities in his other endeavors and brings that to his new role as Chamber Director.

RIVERFRONT TASKFORCE UPDATE:

Vicki Moore gave a brief update on the history of the Riverfront Taskforce for new member Amy Gaedtke. She stated it started when Rolf Thompson and the National Eagle Center Board came to the Port Authority last summer to begin talking about expansion plans for the NEC on the riverfront. She reported the NEC would not need all the land next to the NEC that is currently vacant. She stated as they started to think about expansion at their current location, the Port Authority felt it made sense to think about the rest of that parcel and how it could be developed to be synergistic with the expansion of the NEC. Due to that parcel being contentious in the past and because the Port Authority thinks that land is very important, the Port Authority formed a community Riverfront Taskforce to set goals for what any development on that parcel would accomplish and to look at various approaches to meet those goals. The Riverfront Taskforce has been meeting since late summer and identified 4 goals for that parcel:

- 1) Live synergistically with the National Eagle Center;
- 2) Support Wabasha's future as a tourist destination;
- 3) To contribute to the economic vitality of the community;
- 4) Honor the relationship with the river.

The Riverfront Taskforce has interviewed a consultant and is recommending the hire of that consultant to help with that analysis to help identify a broad range of development possibilities and a broad range of developers who might bring their vision for that property. The consultant will cost approximately \$20,000. Discussion has been held on who will fund the consultant. It is felt that the City Council and Port Authority should get together in January for a workshop so the Port Authority can update and inform the Council on this issue and ascertain their thoughts on this process.

Discussion was held on the issue of Mr. David Fisk speaking at a Council meeting and also putting out a public flyer where it was insinuated that the Port Authority was unwilling to meet with them on a riverfront property proposal. This concerned Port Authority members since no party ever came to a Port Authority meeting with a proposal. It was also stated that three members of the Port Authority met with a party several times and there was never a formal proposal. This party was also told about the Riverfront Taskforce and the process and told the Port Authority will be happy to receive formal proposals in the near future. It was stated there have been multiple individual and group Port Authority discussions with this party. This party asked to come to the Port Authority just a day ago which was not sufficient time as the agenda had already been set and sent out and it didn't seem it was an emergency situation to re-discuss what has already been discussed. It was stated Chad Springer and Mayor Hall would contact the party again to have another discussion.

ROCHESTER AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INC. – MEETING RECAP:

Victoria stated that she and Ed McBride, Mayor Hall, Chad Springer and Rolf Thompson attended this meeting with representatives from Rochester.

Ed reported the Rochester Area Economic Development Group is partnering with the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce to put together a program called the JtoG Program (Journey to Growth Program). They will look at the future of the impact of the Destination Medical Center. They have developed four themes with one them being to become a cohesive region. Part of this theme dealt with how do they incorporate with the tri-county area including Wabasha. They are focusing on future growth and future opportunities and future identity as what will become as a region and how that will play into the Mayo downtown Rochester area and when that grows, Wabasha becomes a suburb of this huge project. Ed stated the meeting went very well and it gives Wabasha the ability to label future projects as Journey to Growth Initiatives which would help us get funding.

Mayor Hall will serve on the committee. Being on this committee helps to guide the regional growth and have a say in what happens to our area.

MEMBER RECRUITMENT UPDATE:

Victoria welcomed Amy Gaedtke as a new Port Authority member and stated Mayor Hall is looking at some other candidates to fill a vacant seat as of January 1st due to Marty Wilson's resignation. It was stated John Friedmeyer will fill the Councilperson chair starting in January.

PORT AUTHORITY MEETING TIME CHANGE:

Victoria stated there has been a request to change the Port Authority meeting day and time to an evening meeting, starting at 7 pm. She reported after speaking to Port Authority members, it was felt that would be acceptable.

It was determined to schedule the January 2015 meeting for Tuesday, January 20th at 7 pm and to have discussion about a permanent day and time so input could be received from the new members.

RESIDENT RECRUITMENT UPDATE:

Victoria updated stating the Port Authority in the past year have tried to bring new residents into the community. Due to the slight drop in population, it has negatively affected the census at the school, hospital, etc. A strategy was developed targeting the Rochester area with ads in Rochester Women magazine, ads on the Rochester Transit Buses and on the Public Radio Station in Rochester. There was also some print material that was developed as well as City Website information posted.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Victoria thanked Marty Wilson and Charles Bricher formally on behalf of the Port Authority and personally on the work they have both done on behalf of the community through the Port Authority and stated their work has been remarkable and stated they will be also be 'men about whom it is said the history of Wabasha can't be written without talking about the both of them'. Victoria also thanked them for their personal support and mentorship.

Marty Wilson stated he has been having discussions with his brother in Red Wing about how to get the Mississippi Riverboats to come to Wabasha.

Discussion was held on the closing of the downtown drugstore and what that impact would be on the downtown area.

Marty Wilson and Charles Bricher moved to adjourn at 5:25 pm. Adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Schamaun, City Clerk