

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2016
12:15 P.M.**

Chairman Tarsi called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M.

Roll Call: Jim Duda, Mark Saigh, Jim Quayle, Roger Zanon and Tarsi.
Absent: Nora Petrucelli and Ed Lindwall.

Also Present: Attorney Ron Basso, City Manager David Thayer and City Clerk Rachel Andreski.

Public in Attendance: Adam Kicker (The IronLine).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Zanon moved, with support from Duda, to approve the agenda as written. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Petrucelli and Lindwall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Saigh moved, Duda seconded, to approve the following minutes as written:

- (a) November 7, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Petrucelli and Lindwall.

REPORTS:

- (a) DDA Attorney: Basso noted he has received many positive comments on the new LED sign.
- (b) City Manager: Thayer reported that he has some leads on the sale of the old sign. Thayer included in the Agenda Packet the profit and loss statement for the Harvest & Haut Festival. He brought to their attention that the monies that were made are going to be used for seed money for next year's event. He again brought up the possibility of the Chamber going to other cities and townships to help offset their costs. Zanon stated if there was a profit, then next year they shouldn't come to the City asking for financial support.

Thayer's last item was an update on the Legislature that just recently passed many bills, primarily the elimination of the TIF capture of millages levied by libraries. The bill was written in a fashion that an amendment could be written to eliminate County millages as well. As of this morning, there hasn't been any word on the Senate Bill 1016, which consolidated the five TIF's into one statute. More information will be forthcoming.

- (c) Façade Committee – Thayer stated the Committee met and will be discussed under Old Business item (a).

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- (a) DDA Financial Report –November, 2016: Quayle moved, with support from Zanon, to approve the November 2016 Financial Report.
- (b) Roll Call: Ayes-5: Duda, Saigh, Zanon, Quayle and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Absent-2: Petrucelli and Lindwall.

- (c) DDA Attorney Invoice – November, 2016: Quayle moved to approve Basso & Basso's November Invoice in the amount of \$440. Zanon seconded. Roll Call: Ayes-5: Duda, Saigh, Zanon, Quayle and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Absent-2: Petrucelli and Lindwall.

OLD BUSINESS

- (a) Façade Grant Program Rewrite: Saigh explained that the Committee had made a few modifications to the proposed Façade Grant. One being that the grant will reimburse 75% of the total grant eligible cost and the business be located within the DDA District Zoned CBG or C-1. Quayle suggested putting a limit on the number of grants one participant can receive. Thayer stated the Committee discussed that, however, decided on not putting a restriction on it. Thayer added that applications may be submitted from December 1st through March 31st each year, and up to 5 projects may be funded each year based on available funds. Tarsi questioned if sidewalks are being considered as part of the grant application. Thayer and Saigh both agreed that sidewalks are completely separate and owned by the municipality in which the Ordinance spells out what is covered and what isn't. Basso stated there used to be a Sidewalk Program some years ago and Tarsi would like to look into that more. Tarsi wanted to know how the people will hear about the program. Thayer stated he will do some type of public relations. Quayle moved, Duda seconded, to adopt the proposed Façade Grant Program that replaces the old. Roll Call: Ayes-5: Saigh, Zanon, Duda, Quayle, and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Absent-2: Petrucelli and Lindwall.

NEW BUSINESS

- (a) The IronLine Grant Request: Adam Kicker noted that their group is looking for funds for insurance and advertising costs in the amount of \$7,000 from the DDA and City, which is \$500 less than requested last year. The IronLine Board decided to not move the start to the downtown this year due to time constraints, however, will revisit it for next year. The fat-bike race will not be held this year as the director recently stepped down. Kicker is open to ideas and encourages any comments or advice to make the event successful. Tarsi suggested having some kind of activity downtown to keep the people in town after the race has started. Saigh moved to allocate \$3,500 to the IronLine Sled Dog Race to preserve our heritage and promote culture with the intent if a profit is made, the excess be used as seed money for next year. Quayle supported. Roll Call: Ayes-5: Duda, Zanon, Quayle, Saigh and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Absent-2: Petrucelli and Lindwall.

- (b) GEI Proposal – Wardo's Building: Thayer met with GEI after reviewing their draft proposal and went line item by line item until the final proposal was presented.

Three options were discussed: demolition (\$115,000-\$131,000), stabilization (\$250,000 - \$290,000) and rehabilitation (\$370,000-\$425,000). Thayer feels the best option is demolition and to provide a green space to. Demolition during the winter months might be cost efficient. The City/DDA has spent approximately \$30,000 thus far on the asbestos removal and taxes. The first step is to decide if the DDA/City wants to demolish the building, next would be to identify available funds and last, put the project out for bids. Saigh moved, Duda supported to pursue Option 1 – Demolition.

Roll Call: Ayes-5: Quayle, Zanon, Duda, Saigh and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Motion carried.
Absent-2: Petrucelli and Lindwall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DDA Member Comments:

Tarsi would like to recruit members to the Board as there are two seats available.

Adjournment: Zanon moved, with support from Quayle, to adjourn at 1:15 p.m. All were in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Petrucelli and Lindwall.


Rachel Andreski, City Clerk