Trail to the Past. Road to the Future.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
21 5TH STREET E, MANTORVILLE, MN 55955
MINUTES
Monday, August 17, 2026
6:30 PM

1. **Call to Order** X Brian Hindal ☐ Chuck Bradford X Zach Krause X Kim Boyum X Troy Stafford X Bob Soland X Jim Potter

   A. *Meeting was called to order by President Hindal at 6:30 pm.*
   B. *Not in attendance: Bradford*
      - *Krause and Stafford needed to be excused from the meeting at 7:35 due to other commitments.*
   C. *Also in attendance: Todd Kieffer, EDA Coordinator, Mary Ayshford & Cheryl Anderson-Art Guild, Sandra Gouchnauer-Welcome Center.*

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
   A. June 15, 2026 Minutes
      i. *Motion to approve the June 15, 2026, minutes made by Potter and seconded by Boyum.*
      ii. *Motion carried 6-0.*

3. **Financial Report**
   A. June 2026
   B. August 2026
      i. *Motion to approve the June and August finance reports made by Stafford and seconded by Soland.*
      ii. *Motion carried 6-0.*
         - *Can we roll the micro loan funds into the RLF account to have one total?*
         - *Kieffer and Lohrbach will look at annual expenditures and provide a budget update for the remainder of 2026.*
         - *The EDA discussed the unused portion of the funds from Rochester Sales Tax CD. It was thought these were going to be put back into the CD at its next maturation date. However, at this time they feel these funds should not be put back into CD until December and after the EDA has discussed future needs in creating the 2027 budget.*

4. **New Business/Old Business**
   A. Art Guild Advertising: Mary Ayshford & Cheryl Anderson
      i. *Art Guild had worked out an arrangement to get a free article in the TODAY magazine, they would need to pay for two ads. The EDA paid for the first and we EDA was asked to pay for the 2nd one as well. Each ad was approximately $300. This is the first year with the hope it would generate more visitors to the Art Guild events.*
      ii. *Motion to reimburse the Art Guild for advertising in the amount of approximately $300 was made by Stafford and seconded by Potter.*
      iii. *Motion carried 6-0.*

B. Welcome Center Request: Sandra Gauchnauer
    i. *The estimate received from Comet Heating is $4,800. Fundraising has generated $2,812. Requesting $1,988.*
    ii. *It has always been the intention of the EDA to support local businesses through advertising that will hopefully bring more visitors to Mantorville. Following a lengthy discussion, the EDA will make an exception and support a capital investment of up to $1,000. The EDA is hoping the Welcome Center can use this as a matching request to promote additional fundraising.*
        - *Motion to approve funding up to $1,000 was made by Stafford and seconded by Krause.*
        - *Motion carried 6-0.*

C. SMIF Economic Development Grant Update
    i. Mantorville Business Learning Initiative
        - *Kieffer explained the project of utilizing free professional learning experiences to bring any/all business owners to the table to not only learn from various proven presenters, but also with and through each other. The Chamber will be overseeing the day-to-day operations of the project, but the availability to participate is for all business owners in the community to have access to these trainings. They DO NOT need to be a Chamber member. This list will remain fluid as owners come and go.*
        - *We heard from owners on the survey that they feel like they are working in silos and basically competing against each other. The goal of this project is for all businesses to support each other, and in the long run, this will support all Mantorville business owners.*
        - *SMIF will be announcing award recipients in October.*
        - *Grant maximum is $10,000 with a 10% match.*
            - *A motion for the EDA to provide the 10% match was made by Soland and seconded by Krause.*
            - *Motion carried 6-0.*

D. SMIF Taylor Rural Development Grant
    i. Riverside Park
        - *This grant opens September 6 and closes October 8. Two improvements for the park have been heard from Music in Mantorville attendees and vendors throughout the summer. They are:*
            - *Improved Wi-Fi for the park. This would provide for a much more effective and efficient process for vendors and attendees. With the new technology always evolving, it would also provide benefits for the performing musicians.*
            - *Shade for the green space in the park for evening events throughout the Summer. Very few people are able to sit directly in front of the bandshell due to the intensity of the sun and heat. We do believe this will increase attendance and provide greater opportunities for our local vendors and Farmers' Market.*

E. Larger Than Life Update
   i. *Kickoff in June was well attended. 18 artists set up booths this year compared to 14 last year. Visitors are seen daily enjoying the exhibition. Joe Adams also appreciates the set-up as it allows Public Works to maintain around them.*

F. Music in Mantorville Update
   i. *It has been going well. Weather and heat do play a role in nightly attendance. Based on the following of each band, they have seen a high of 1,000 in attendance, but the average for the season so far would be around 450-500.*

G. Marigold Days
   i. Discussion took place regarding a list of GEM candidates for 2027.

H. Review of Expectations
   i. Main Street Limestone
      - *Mayo Clinic was shared as another resource for gathering information regarding Main Street limestone cleaning.*
   ii. Fishing Dock or Pier
      - *This is being removed as an expectation due to logistics.*
   iii. Revolving Loan Promotion
      - *Kieffer believes that as the Chamber continues to build the Business Learning Initiative, owners will be more prepared to understand how an EDA Revolving Loan could provide benefits for expanding individual businesses' opportunities.*
   iv. Business Recruitment
      - *No updates at this time*

I. Other Items

5. Adjourn

A. Motion to adjourn the August 17 meeting at 7:50 was made by Potter and seconded by Boyum.

B. Motion carried 4-0

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.