

of September. Minnesota National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials met July 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> at Madden's. The Brainerd HRA was able to give this group a tour of downtown to highlight businesses.

John Schommer, HRA Rehab Coordinator, discussed that the City Council approved closing the Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) Grant for Northeast. The HRA will be applying for a SCDP Grant to accompany the MNDOT TH210/ Washington project. This grant will be used for street scape improvements as well as for small businesses to make improvements. The application will be in the summer of 2023. Expect updates to businesses and the EDA at that time.

### **BLAEDC Update**

Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC, reported that BLAEDC attended the Minnesota Housing Partnership meeting. The housing market is exhausted with around 4,400 units in deficit. The available housing stock in Crow Wing County is under 1 month in availability, which is a major problem. He met with a developer and lenders in the area to understand the types of incentives that are available to developers to bring more housing to our area. BLAEDC is partnering with the Chamber in September to bring together employers in the area to discuss the struggles employers face and develop retention programs to continue to attract people into our community. BLAEDC is partnering once again with the YMCA for a youth entrepreneur program. Finally, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) received ARPA funds for communities and partner organizations for a main street grant program. BLAEDC is submitting an RFP for the YMCA to create 85 more daycare slots by purchasing another building in Brainerd.

### **Old Business**

#### **Budget Levy and Priorities Discussion**

Community Development Director Chanski stated that the EDA's levy is a part of the City's overall levy. Council will have to approve the final EDA levy. The City Council is having a budget workshop on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in order to set the City levy by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Finance Director Hillman stated that the City received its first half of the ARPA funding. The first half amount was \$710,000 meaning that the total to be received is roughly \$1.4 million. Ms. Hillman stated that the EDA has historically levied the maximum amount, which for 2022 is .018% or \$145,036.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSON AND BEVANS,  
DULY CARRIED, TO REQUEST MAXIMUM LEVY AMOUNT AND REMOVE ALL  
EXPENDITURES LISTED ON THE BUDGET.

### **Informational**

#### **2021-2022 Goals Update**

**BRAINERD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:30 a.m.**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**  
**WebEx Teleconference Meeting**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, President Erickson called the meeting of the Brainerd Economic Development Authority to order at 7:30 a.m.

Upon roll call Commissioners Marie Kirsch, Michael O'Day, Toni Bieser, Kelly Bevans, and Wayne Erickson were noted as present. Also, present were City Administrator Bergman, Community Development Director Chanski, Finance Director Hillman, Eric Charpentier, HRA Director, John Schommer, HRA Rehab Coordinator, and Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC.

**Approval/Amendment of the Agenda- Approved**

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND BEVANS, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

**Approval of Minutes- Approved**

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BIESER AND O'DAY, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 5TH, 2021 MEETING.

**Financial Report- Approved**

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BEVANS AND JOHNSON, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED.

**Updates**

**Executive Director**

Administrator Bergman outlined some of the Sesquicentennial celebrations for the week of September 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Events will take place throughout the week with a large variety of community partners developing events. City events include an open house at City Hall and ribbon cutting for Memorial Park and The Rotary Riverside Park. Ms. Bergman stated that the Council has approved the creation of a permanent Public Works Department staff will be looking for final approval of structure. Discussion continues for the PEG Channel. Finally, the 2025 TH210/Washington St project was presented to the City Council by MNDOT this will be a great opportunity for improvements in the City as Washington is the "gateway" to the City.

**HRA Update**

Eric Charpentier, HRA Director, stated that the Brainerd HRA was invited to the Crow Wing County HRA Board to discuss the Minnesota Housing Partnership Housing trust fund and how the entities can work together to meet the community's needs. The NorthStar apartments boiler update is delayed but is expected to be complete at the end

Community Development Director Chanski stated that work has begun on property analysis of under used properties.

Administrator Bergman stated that in partnership with Visit Brainerd, the Communications Intern will be completing a relocation packet for new and potential residents.

### **Comments/Questions**

Commissioner Bieser stated that she is excited for the opportunities the community has for funding and seems it is on the right track to ask for that money to make positive changes.

Commissioner Kirsch updated the commission on the Destination Downtown Brainerd Coalition that is so thankful for the EDA's support of a downtown coordinator. The position has really brought positive change to downtown businesses.

Mike Higgins, BIC, and Northern Pacific Center updated the commission on his property holdings. It is expected by the first quarter of 2022 that the BIC will have 50+ employees employed within the center between 3 entities. The Northern Pacific Center has had a lot of growth and activity. He is very interested in a path to connect the NP Center to downtown. The shops program has been very successful, redevelopment of the Convention Center is being adapted into a business incubator space.

### **Adjournment**

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONERS BEVANS AND JOHNSON TO  
ADJOURN THE MEETING, DULY CARRIED.

The Authority adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

  
Secretary/Treasurer