



**City of Moorhead  
Economic Development Authority**

**Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2021 at 11:45 AM  
Hjemkomst Center - 202 1 Ave N - Public Meeting Rm**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority was held in the Hjemkomst Center - 202 1 Ave N - Public Meeting Rm, on April 12, 2021, at 11:45 AM.

**Roll call of the members was made as follows:**

Board Member:	Abdullahi Ali	Present
Board Member:	Nate Anderson	Present
Board Member:	Michael Burns	Present
Board Member:	Shelly Carlson	Present
Board Member:	Chad Cota	Present
Board Member:	Alexandre Cyusa	Present
Board Member:	James Hand	Present
Council Member:	Joel Paulsen	Present
Board Member:	Jeff Schaumann	Absent
Board Member:	Roberta Solien	Present
Council Member:	Deb White	Present

**Others Present:**

Kathryn DelZoppo, Assistant City Attorney  
Derrick LaPoint, DMI / Economic Development  
Dan Mahli, City Manager  
Amy Thorpe, Economic Development Program Administrator

**1. [Call meeting to Order / Roll Call](#)**

**2. Agenda Amendments**

Minutes: None

**3. Approve Minutes**

A [March 1, 2021](#)

**Motion to Approve made by Deb White and seconded by Roberta Solien**

*Motion Passed: For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1*

**4. Citizens Addressing the Board**

Minutes: None

**5. Commissioners' Reports**

Minutes: James Hand, MBA, provided an update for the Moorhead Business Association.

6. [Modifications to MPS' Economic Development Rate Incentive - Travis Schmidt, MPS General Manager](#)

Minutes: Travis Schmidt, Moorhead Public Service, provided update on the recent modifications to MPS' performance-based economic development incentives for new, consistent utility loads meeting minimum thresholds. He stated that the MPS Commission approved an amendment to their policy to utilize Missouri River Energy Services' (MSER) Electric Rate Discount program which was approved at their last meeting. He also stated that the new policy included additional tiers not offered by MPS which would allow smaller commercial - industrial rate payers to take advantage of the discount for new electric loads. He stated that the Commission also amended the policy to align the water usage tiers with the MRES 4-tier system.

7. [Placemaking in Moorhead](#)

Minutes: Joe Burgum, Folkways, introduced the concept of "placemaking" to create gathering spaces for people with events such as Red River Market, Christkindlmarkt, and the construction of a light tunnel ("Mary's Tunnel") located in Viking Ship Park honoring former employee, Mary Schmidt, who passed away suddenly in 2020. Dan Mahli, City Manager/Acting EDA Director, stated that a portion of the EDA's 2021 marketing budget had been set aside for placemaking and that Folkways was working on ideas to activate Moorhead's river corridor.

8. [Economic Development Report](#)

Minutes: Derrick LaPoint, DMI/Economic Development, provided an overview of economic development activities which occurred during the past month as found in packet materials. He also showed the commissioners a video created to highlight historic restoration projects made possible by Minnesota's Historic Tax Credits. The video was intended for law makers to see the great projects Historic Tax Credit has made possible and the ripple effects from Greater Minnesota communities. The video specifically highlighted the Simon Warehouse project in Moorhead.

9. [Election of Officers](#)

Minutes: Derrick LaPoint, DMI/Economic Development, stated that in light of the unusual year with the COVID-19 pandemic, and in similar to other boards and commissions, he suggested that the current officers continue to serve in their offices. Hearing no objections, he asked for a motion from the floor.

**Motion to Approve made by Chad Cota and seconded by Heidi Durand**

Approve the Appointment of Officers as follows: Michael Burns, Chair, Nate Anderson, Vice Chair, and Roberta Solien, Secretary, for the remainder of the 2021 year.

*Motion Passed: For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1*

10. **Information / Update**

A City of Moorhead Comprehensive Plan: Onward Moorhead!  
<http://cityofmoorhead.com/departments/community-development/planning-zoning/long-range-planning/onward-moorhead-comprehensive-plan>

B Building & Permit Valuation Report - Sign up for "Building and Housing" e-Notifications at:  
<https://cityofmoorhead.com/about-the-city/news/sign-up-for-e-notification>

11. **Adjourn**

Minutes: Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:



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Michael Burns  
Chair

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Roberta Solien  
Secretary

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and are available for public review.

*Respectfully submitted by:*  
*Amy Thorpe, Economic Development Program Administrator*