

Tower Economic Development Authority
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 3, 2019
City of Tower Council Chambers

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Tower Economic Development Authority was called to order at 5:34pm by Marshall HelMBERger

Roll Call

Present: Joan Broten, Marshall HelMBERger, Sheldon Majerle, Dick Larmouth, Rachel Beldo
Absent: Nate Dostert, Steve Peterson

Also Present: Orlyn Kringstad, Jodi Summit, Steve Abrahamson, Mary Batinich, Scarlet Stone, Mary Shedd, Steve Altenburg, Steve Wilson, Tony Sikora

*Please note that Joan Broten kept minutes until Rachel Beldo arrived as noted below.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion made by Larmouth and supported by Majerle to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Larmouth and supported by Broten to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2019 TEDA meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's Report available; noted that TEDA should be developing a budget to submit to the city council

Public Input

Public input provided by Steve Altenburg who read a notice regarding advice on legal counsel

Accept Reports from Committees

Joan gave report on Main Street Committee work. "Welcome" to be added to new sign, light was just added, will get solar set up for now and eventually electric.

It was noted that the deadline for bids on the concrete work for the Lamppa building is Friday 10/4/19. Motion made for "Bid Review Committee" to set up date and time to review bids for next week made by Broten, supported by Larmouth. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by Broten and supported by Larmouth for Beldo and Peterson to review Harbor Plan, sign it, and forward to the city council. Motion approved unanimously.

HelMBERger noted he spoke to Nate Dostert; Nate does not have time for TEDA. Motion by Larmouth with support to set up ad in local papers for position on board. Motion was approved unanimously.

Beldo enters 5:55pm

Unfinished Business

Marshall provided a presentation on the history of the Tower Shores TEDA loan. He reviewed information in a PowerPoint presentation noting the history, process that TEDA went through, due diligence that was followed. It was noted that this is in response to the article submitted to the Tower News by Steve Altenburg on 9/13/19

- It was noted that the idea for the townhome project originated with the Tower Harbor Committee in November 2015 which was comprised of Steve Altenburg, Linda Keith, and Josh Carlson. City was going to be developer and hire out for services. An RFQ was accepted from Orlyn Kringstad's group.
- January 2017 – new member selected for TEDA Committee by previous City Council. Marshall recommended meeting with Commissioner Phillips. It was decided to process the grant loan through TEDA and for TEDA to get interest. TEDA adopted loan guidelines which were reviewed by the IRRB who had no concerns about those guidelines. Altenburg claims the loan did not meet the guidelines, which HelMBERger points out is false. Reviewed 5/19/17 email from HelMBERger to council. Former city clerk insisted loan payments be run through the city and not TEDA
 - o Altenburg's claims and evidence rebuking those claims reviewed in detail
 - o A summary of issues surrounding TEDA and this loan were reviewed.
- Altenburg's claims have been forwarded to the State Auditor, being handled by Mark Kerr
- Mary Batinich asked question about TEDA and the Store Front Loan
- Options were reviewed to address Altenburg's defamatory claims
 - o A motion was made by Broten and supported by Larmouth to send the PowerPoint presentation made tonight to Mark Kerr and issue a Retraction Demand Letter to the Tower News editor Gary Albertson with a deadline of November 1st for response. Motion approved unanimously.
- Discussion had questioning if there are any repercussions regarding making a false complaint to the State Auditor

New Business

Victoria Ranua, newly hired city clerk, has reviewed statues about TEDA developing its own budget. City does levy \$5,000 annually

The need for ongoing discussion regarding TEDA budget, role authority, etc. was noted

Next TEDA meeting will be scheduled for November 14th at 6pm. Will need to be Special Meeting due to change in date and time. Beldo is requesting to have TEDA meeting times moved to 6pm. Will add to next agenda.

Will invite new clerk-treasurer to next TEDA meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Majerle at 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Beldo
Secretary
Tower Economic Development Authority