

**CITY OF ORONOCO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APPROVED MINUTES
July 24, 2023 @ 6:30 pm**

I) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eichhorst called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II) ROLL CALL

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Ryland Eichhorst (Council)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Marcia Krieger
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jamie Rothe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Adam Beadling
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jeff Schuppe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Dana Bergner (Council)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jan Thronson

Sunny Bjorklund Schultz, Executive Director

III) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Thronson, seconded by Krieger, to approve the agenda as presented.
Voice vote followed. Motion carried (6-0).

IV) APPROVAL OF 6/26 MINUTES

Motion by Krieger, seconded by Bergner, to approve the June 26, 2023 minutes as amended on page three in the motion, second line, to read: “Monday (July 24) as previously agreed...”
Voice vote followed. Motion carried (6-0).

V) NEW BUSINESS

A. Development in Oronoco: Past, Present, and Future

1. Commissioner Eichhorst, Honorable Mayor of Oronoco

Commissioner Eichhorst provided a presentation highlighting current businesses in Oronoco, potential businesses within city limits, and potential developments and annexations to Oronoco. Handouts of his presentation, with space for notes, were provided to each commissioner and a copy is attached to these minutes, as well.

Current businesses within the City include: Gas & Go; Northland Buildings; Advanced Hardwoods; Animal House dog care; Hawkins’ (multiple businesses?); Joe’s Auto Discount; Thompson Garage Doors; Jessie Maes’ event center; Self Storage; WaterWorks; Schad Tracy; Oronoco Online Auctions; Buy RV/Sell RV, with sales in front of building and service at back; Sistique Boutique; Tilly’s (restaurant and bar); American Tourist RV; Camping World; Hilltop; former Illusions Duck Call recently purchased by Camping World for expansion; Paws Ability Dog Training; People’s Energy Coop; Casey’s; and CH Robinson Data Center.

Potential businesses within City limits include an ice cream and coffee shop; a daytime café and bar; a family restaurant with a bar and drive-up window (expected Spring 2024); and relocation of Glenn’s Motorcoach Tours to Oronoco.

Eichhorst noted that:

- There are a few parcels within City limits available for development, including five lots in the Oronoco Crossings development (owned by Peoples Energy Coop), and several more larger parcels available with annexation.
- Currently Oronoco consists of 1,952 Acres (3.05 sq. miles), with the overall annexation potential for another 640 Acres.
- Oronoco’s census population was 883 in 2000; 1,300 in 2010; and 1,802 in 2020.
- Oronoco has a lot of development potential because of the new Wastewater Treatment Facility and municipal water improvements.

Eichhorst summarized his presentation by noting that Oronoco has tremendous potential for growth and for improving the quality of life for its residents because:

- Proximity to Rochester.
- EDA in place → commercial development and housing.
- Planning & Zoning Commission in place.
- Dedicated City Staff & City Council.
- Engaged residents.
- Age Friendly community.

With the decommissioning of Community Wastewater Treatment Systems (CWTSs) it is possible that those drainfields on city-owned parcels may be utilized for other community uses (i.e. parkland, trails).

2. Discussion

The Commissioners had a robust discussion about strengths of the City and Commissioners Eichhorst and Bergner, as Council members, were able to share information about the various studies and documented efforts of gathering resident input. Bergner referenced the Age Friendly Survey that found the average age of Oronoco residents to be 36, but noted, too, that there is a high wage disparity.

It was agreed in concept that meetings should set time aside for brainstorming and that it will become important to develop a “pitch deck” for communicating with those we encounter, those who reach out to us, and for presentation opportunities.

It was also noted that there are several networking opportunities available to Commissioners such as SE MN Together; Rochester Area Builders Association; Rochester Area Economic Development; and others. As these become known to the ED, she will share them.

B. Budget Discussion


Executive Director Bjorklund Schultz noted that she is working with CEDA to develop a budget appropriate to the scope of work to be included in a Contract with the firm.

VI) OLD BUSINESS

VII) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Eichhorst, seconded by Beadling, to adjourn the July 24, 2023 EDA meeting at 9:36 PM. Voice vote followed. Motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,


Sunny Bjorklund Schultz, Executive Director