

**CITY OF ORONOCO  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
APPROVED MINUTES**

**August 22, 2023 @ 6:30 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83301458585>

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Eichhorst called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

**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 type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Jan Thronson

Sunny Bjorklund Schultz, Executive Director

**GUESTS:** Chris Giesen, CEDA

**III) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (as is or as amended)**

**Motion by Eichhorst, seconded by Beadling, to approve the agenda as prepared.  
Voice vote followed. Motion carried (6-0).**

**IV) APPROVAL OF 7/24 MINUTES (as is or as amended)**

Minutes were inadvertently left out of the agenda packet and, therefore, tabled until the September meeting.

**V) NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Point of Privilege Request – Commissioner Krieger**

Commissioner Krieger provided an overview of a potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety, offering to abide by the wishes of the Commission if they felt her resignation was appropriate.

**Motion by Rothe, second by Bergner, to enter executive session at 6:38 PM.**

**Voice vote followed. Motion carried (6-0).**

Commissioner Krieger and Guest Giesen were asked to leave the room.

Commissioner Krieger was asked to return to the room at 6:55 PM.

**Motion by Eichhorst, second by Bergner, to close executive session at 7:01 PM.**

**Voice vote followed. Motion carried (6-0).**

**Summary of Executive Session:**

Commissioner Krieger raised a point of privilege to address a potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety due to her association with the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota and the District Judge presiding over litigation brought against Members of the Oronoco City Council. After discussion of the matter in closed session, the EDA members found that there was no reason for her to resign from the EDA. It was agreed that Conflicts of Interest could be addressed in Bylaws.

**Motion by Eichhorst, second by Bergner, to retain Krieger as an EDA Commissioner.  
Voice vote followed. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. \*CEDA Contract (outline from email to ED)

1. Scope of Work – Strategic Planning
2. Scope of Work – Onsite Assistance

Chris Giesen of CEDA was present to speak about the proposed contract and services for which Commissioners might wish to engage CEDA and to begin guiding the Commission through its process. There was robust conversation including the following items:

- Not only is there a geographic divide (east and west sides of Highway 52) in the city, but there are also two constituencies – longtime residents and new/newer residents.
- What can or does makes Oronoco a destination spot?
- What sets Oronoco apart? Most paths? Trail system?
- There is a lot going on in the city right now with the WWTF project.
- Planning & Zoning is looking at revising lots sizes downward from the current 20,000 sq. ft. minimum. It is likely that R-2 zoning will become more active.
- What do we want the look and feel of Oronoco to be? Again, based on data from constituents.

Ultimately, the Commission agreed the city needs to have an “identity,” decisions should be data-driven, and that community engagement is an important part of the equation. Community engagement and data collection can be done through surveys, focus groups/listening sessions, and educational opportunities. Identity, branding, and marketing are key components to move forward, along with talking points.

C. Budget Discussion

By consensus, Commissioners felt \$50,000 to \$100,000 would be appropriate given the expectation under the CEDA contract.

Sunny asked about an EDA levy, to which Giesen noted that Goodview does levy for its EDA. This is something Oronoco may wish to consider going forward.

D. Brainstorming

Given the many opportunities that come to her attention, Sunny suggested that perhaps Commissioners might wish to volunteer for specific opportunities. For example, because of her work, Commissioner Bergner might wish to take point on Age-Friendly and AARP; Commissioner Krieger expressed interest in this too, but for a different reason. Other

opportunities for engagement include ROCOG, SE MN Together, Rochester Area Builder's Association, Association of Realtors, Chambers of Commerce, etc. Commissioners also expressed a desire to learn more about how they can best perform their role.

E. CEDA Event on September 6

Commissioners were reminded that CEDA and SMIF (Southern MN Initiative Foundation), with funding in part from the US Small Business Administration, is holding an event on September 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 PM at South x Southeast Brewing in Pine Island. The topic of the event is Financing Your Business with presentations on Traditional Financing; SBA Loans; and Gap Financing. Dinner and light refreshments will be served, and presentations begin at 5:30 PM.

F. Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30 PM (NEW DAY)

**VI) OLD BUSINESS**

A. Admin items → Bank Account, Signers, Seal, etc.

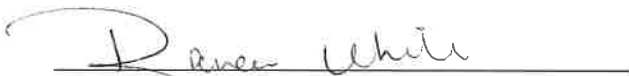
Given the hour, it was agreed there was no urgency on these items but merely a placeholder to keep in mind moving forward.

**VII) ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Eichhorst, second by Rothe, to adjourn the August 22, 2023, EDA meeting at 8:45 PM.**

**Voice vote followed. Motion carried (6-0).**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sunny Bjorklund Schultz, Executive Director