

**CITY OF HERMANTOWN  
HERMANTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**AGENDA**

Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM Central  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Hermantown Governmental Services Building

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners Geissler, Hjelle, Jones, LeBlanc, Haapanen, Ronchetti, Mayor Boucher

**CITY STAFF:** John Mulder, City Administrator; Joe Wicklund, Communications & Community Engagement Director; Steve Overom, City Attorney

**ABSENT:** None

**VISITORS:** Karl Schuettler, Northspan (in person) and Heidi Timm-Bijold (via Zoom)

**MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Hjelle, seconded by Commissioner Geissler, to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2023 HEDA meeting. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote: 7 - 0.

**MOTIONS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**WORK SESSION (Project Updates)**

John Mulder gave the following updates:

**Business Retention & Expansion Survey Results Presentation:** Karl Schuettler of Northspan discussed the results of the Business Retention & Expansion survey conducted by Northspan in 2022. Northspan conducted 21 interviews with Hermantown businesses. Businesses generally fared okay during COVID. Businesses saw the importance of the Hwy 53 corridor and took pride in their community. The perceptions of accessibility and helpfulness by the City were mixed. One of the key takeaways was the City should build a stronger relationship with the business community and be more proactive in engaging them on major policy issues. Staff recommended HEDA and the City should be more actively engaged with the Chamber of Commerce and that it may be helpful to re-visit the businesses in 3-5 years to get their reaction to how things may have changed.

**Engwall's P&R Development Discussion:** John Mulder reported that staff was continue to discuss the project with the developer and reviewing the financial information to determine if the project would work financially. John Mulder reviewed the infrastructure that the City felt was needed to make the project the best it could be. He also reviewed possible other funding sources that could be used to cover the costs of some that infrastructure. A meeting with the developer is scheduled for the middle of March.

**RECESS**

**Next meeting is set for March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Motion by Mayor Boucher, seconded by Commissioner Hjelle, to recess the Hermantown Economic Development Authority meeting at 6:28 p.m. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote: 7 - 0.

Recorded by:

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John Mulder, City Administrator