

CITY OF HERMANTOWN

HERMANTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 5:00 PM Central

Council Chambers, City Hall – Hermantown Governmental Services Building

Mayor Wayne Boucher:	Present
Councilor John Geissler:	Absent
Councilor Andy Hjelle:	Absent
Councilor Joe Peterson:	Present
Councilor Brian LeBlanc:	Present
Karen Pionk:	Present
Rob Unzen:	Present

CITY STAFF: Chad Ronchetti, Economic Development Director; Mia Thibodeau, HEDA Attorney

VISITORS:

1. **ROLL CALL**

2. **MINUTES**

A. Approve April 17, 2025 HEDA Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as presented. This motion, made by LaBlanc and seconded by Pionk, Carried.

Mayor Wayne Boucher:	Yea
Councilor John Geissler:	Absent
Councilor Andy Hjelle:	Absent
Councilor Joe Peterson:	Yea
Councilor Brian LeBlanc:	Yea
Karen Pionk:	Yea
Rob Unzen:	Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

3. **MOTIONS**

4. **RESOLUTIONS**

5. **WORK SESSION**

A. Establishment Resolution and Bylaws Review

Director Ronchetti discussed the structure and appointment process for Economic Development Authorities (EDAs) in Minnesota, noting that larger cities tend to have 7-member EDAs with more at-large community representation. Director Ronchetti

presented data on EDA structures in comparable cities and discusses the pros and cons of having the mayor on the EDA. The commission members debated the merits of changing their EDA structure to include more at-large members, considering the balance between council oversight and community representation. The Commissioners discussed whether the Mayor should be the President of the Commission and whether the City Administrator should remain as the Executive Director.

The Commission also debated updating the \$50 per meeting compensation for commissioners, with suggestions ranging from no change to doubling it to around \$100. Commissioners discussed the need to align any pay increase with council policies and consider staggering terms if the structure changes to maintain continuity of experience.

Director Ronchetti committed to speaking with the two absent Commissioners and revising the topic at the May HEDA meeting.

6. **RECESS**

Motion to recess at 6:22 p.m. This motion, made by Commissioner Pionk and seconded by Commissioner LaBlanc, Carried.

Mayor Wayne Boucher:	Yea
Councilor John Geissler:	Absent
Councilor Andy Hjelle:	Absent
Councilor Joe Peterson:	Yea
Councilor Brian LeBlanc:	Yea
Karen Pionk:	Yea
Rob Unzen:	Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Recorded by:



Chad Ronchetti, Economic Development Director