



**Meeting of the Economic Development
Authority
Held at the Elk River City Hall
Monday, April 21, 2025**

Members Present: President Matt Westgaard, Councilmember Mike Beyer, Councilmember Cory Grupa, Councilmember Jennifer Wagner, Commissioner Jeff Hartwig, Councilmember J. Brian Calva, Commissioner Charlie Blesener

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Economic Development Director Brent O'Neil, Economic Development Specialist Joshua Mollan, and Recording Secretary Katie Porath

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. CONSIDER AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Jennifer Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Mike Beyer to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Mike Beyer and seconded by Commissioner Charlie Blesener to approve the following consent items as outlined in their respective staff reports. Motion carried 7-0.

4.1 Draft Minutes - March 17, 2025

4.2 Check Register

4.3 Balance Sheet

4.4 Revenue/Expenditure Reports

5. OPEN FORUM

No one appeared for Open Forum.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Consider Elk River Garden Gem Awards

Mr. Mollan gave an update on the proposed awards. There would be four housing related categories under the Housing and Redevelopment Authority and one commercial category related award under the EDA. Awards would be presented at September HRA and EDA meetings and applications will be accepted starting May 1, 2025.

Chair Westgaard questioned the timing of the program and if plants would be established in time to submit them or if a homeowner was planning a fall project.

Moved by Commissioner Jennifer Wagner and seconded by Commissioner J. Brian Calva to approve the creation of Elk River Garden Gem Awards, a new landscape and garden recognition program, in partnership with the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried 7-0.

7.2 Marketing Committee

Mr. O'Neil gave an update on the proposed temporary marketing committee. He asked for volunteers from the committee.

Commissioner Blesener stated that the Together Elk River committee has been having conversations about marketing and there seems to be some overlap with the proposed Destination Marketing Organization efforts.

Commissioner Blesener and Commissioner Wagner, who are already on the Together Elk River committee, agreed to be on the new subcommittee. Commissioner Calva also volunteered.

Moved by Commissioner Mike Beyer and seconded by Commissioner J. Brian Calva to designate a temporary marketing committee and assign 2–3 members to the committee.

Chair Westgaard asked if the names of the committee members should be included in the motion.

Commissioner Beyer moved to amend the motion to include the committee members Charlie Blesener, Jennifer Wagner, and J. Brian Calva seconded by Commissioner J. Brian Calva. Motion carried 7-0.

7.3 General Updates

Mr. Mollan updated the commission on website analytics and videos that had been recorded.

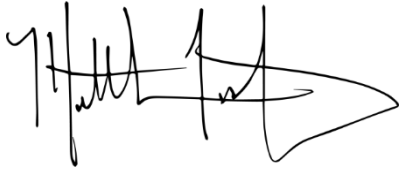
Mr. O'Neil updated the council on businesses looking for land in Elk River. Placer.ai contract renewal is coming up and they are asking for a 5% increase.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Commissioner J. Brian Calva and seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Wagner to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Katie Porath.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Westgaard', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Westgaard, EDA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tina Allard', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Tina Allard, City Clerk