



**City of Newport
Newport Economic Development Authority Minutes
March 3, 2016**

1. CONVENE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING

President Geraghty called the Regular NEDA Meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

A. Roll Call

Commission Members Present – Tim Geraghty, Tom Ingemann, Bill Sumner, Tracy Rahm, Dan Lund

Commission Members Absent -

B. Review Agenda

Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Ingemann, to approve the Agenda as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

C. Approval of NEDA Meeting Minutes

1. Minutes of the January 21, 2016 NEDA Meeting

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Rahm to approve the January 21, 2016 minutes as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

2. Minutes of the February 4, 2016 NEDA Workshop Meeting

Motion by Sumner, seconded by Ingemann to approve the February 4, 2016 workshop minutes as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion Regarding City-Owned Property at Hastings Avenue and 13th Street

Executive Director Hill presented on this item as outlined in the March 3, 2016 NEDA packet.

President Geraghty - I'm hesitant to sell it or get rid of it. I think there is minimum green space on that site already and I don't want more cars on it.

Commissioner Rahm - I like the lease option because it's more flexible.

President Geraghty - Maybe there's something we can do with the Watershed District instead of putting a sign up there. I can't imagine it'll bring us much in taxes.

Commissioner Rahm - That's why I wonder if leasing will bring us more.

President Geraghty - I want to know what their plan would be for leasing.

Commissioner Rahm - I don't like the idea of a billboard there.

Executive Director Hill - They would move their sign there.

Commissioner Rahm - We could put some conditions on the lease.

Executive Director Hill - You wouldn't let him put a sign there if you leased it I would assume. He wants to know if we would entertain the idea before making an offer.

Commissioner Rahm - He wants to put cars on there?

Executive Director Hill - Yes.

Commissioner Rahm - I like the idea of leasing.

Commissioner Lund - I think if he wants to make an offer, we'll consider it.

Commissioner Ingemann - You know he wants to expand the number of cars.

Commissioner Sumner - He has a business, we shouldn't be telling him how to run his business.

Executive Director Hill - Is there a consensus?

President Geraghty - I don't think we have one for selling.

Commissioner Rahm - I would entertain an offer for leasing.

Commissioner Ingemann - But he can't put cars there.

Executive Director Hill - That's all he has. If he bought it, he would move his sign there. So you would be willing to lease it as long as he doesn't put any cars on it?

Commissioner Lund - Without a proposal, it's hard to decide. It seems like he just wants a parking lot instead of green space.

Commissioner Sumner - He'll have a car lot there until someone buys it.

Executive Director Hill - So you want to keep it?

Commissioner Lund - I'd like to see the details but it doesn't sound like there's interest.

Executive Director Hill - I'll let him know that the City is not interested at this time.

B. Discussion Regarding City-Owned Property at 2nd Avenue and 9th Street

Commissioner Lund presented on this item as outlined in the March 3, 3016 NEDA packet. The next step for the four lots (see attached map) is to apply for the ability to construct a dock system off of the north side of the mill pond. In order to do that, the City would need to sell the two northwestern lots adjacent to the mill pond because a private dock could not be placed on public land.

President Geraghty - Would we need your involvement on this?

Engineer Herdegen - We walked that site and I agree with Deb, the difficult part would be getting from the top of the bluff down. That being put aside, is an application a bad thing, no. I think you can submit the application and get approval and then figure out how to do it.

Commissioner Ingemann - If the access would be for those four lots, then any access should be shared by them.

Engineer Herdegen - If you get approval, you can market those properties as river access and then have them figure it out.

Executive Director Hill - I looked at the application and believe I need help.

Commissioner Lund - I can sit down with Deb on this.

Executive Director Hill - Just so you know, the southeastern lot holds the original mill. I'll confirm that with Bob Vogel but if that's the case, we don't want to get rid of that.

Commissioner Rahm - Let's try it.

Commissioner Ingemann - Let's do it.

Commissioner Lund - I think this would make the lots more viable.

Commissioner Rahm - Can we lease it instead of selling it so we have a constant revenue stream coming in?

Commissioner Lund - My preference would be to submit the application and see what we can do.

President Geraghty - So you'll work with Deb?

Commissioner Lund - Yes. As long as we're talking about this, I think it would be worth considering putting a fence on the east side of lot #4 before selling. The adjoining lot has a lot of cars.

Executive Director Hill - I can meet the realtor that I've been working with out there and see what she says.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

President Geraghty - I'd like to start marketing the Maxwell property in May.

Attorney Knaak - We should be able to do that.

President Geraghty - Well yes, getting your part done but also start talking with MnDot on a price.

Commissioner Lund - Didn't Cold Storage want half the land?

President Geraghty - No, they wanted half a piece but backed off. I just want to start marketing it.

4. ADJOURN

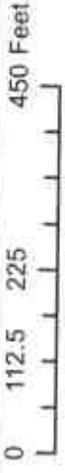
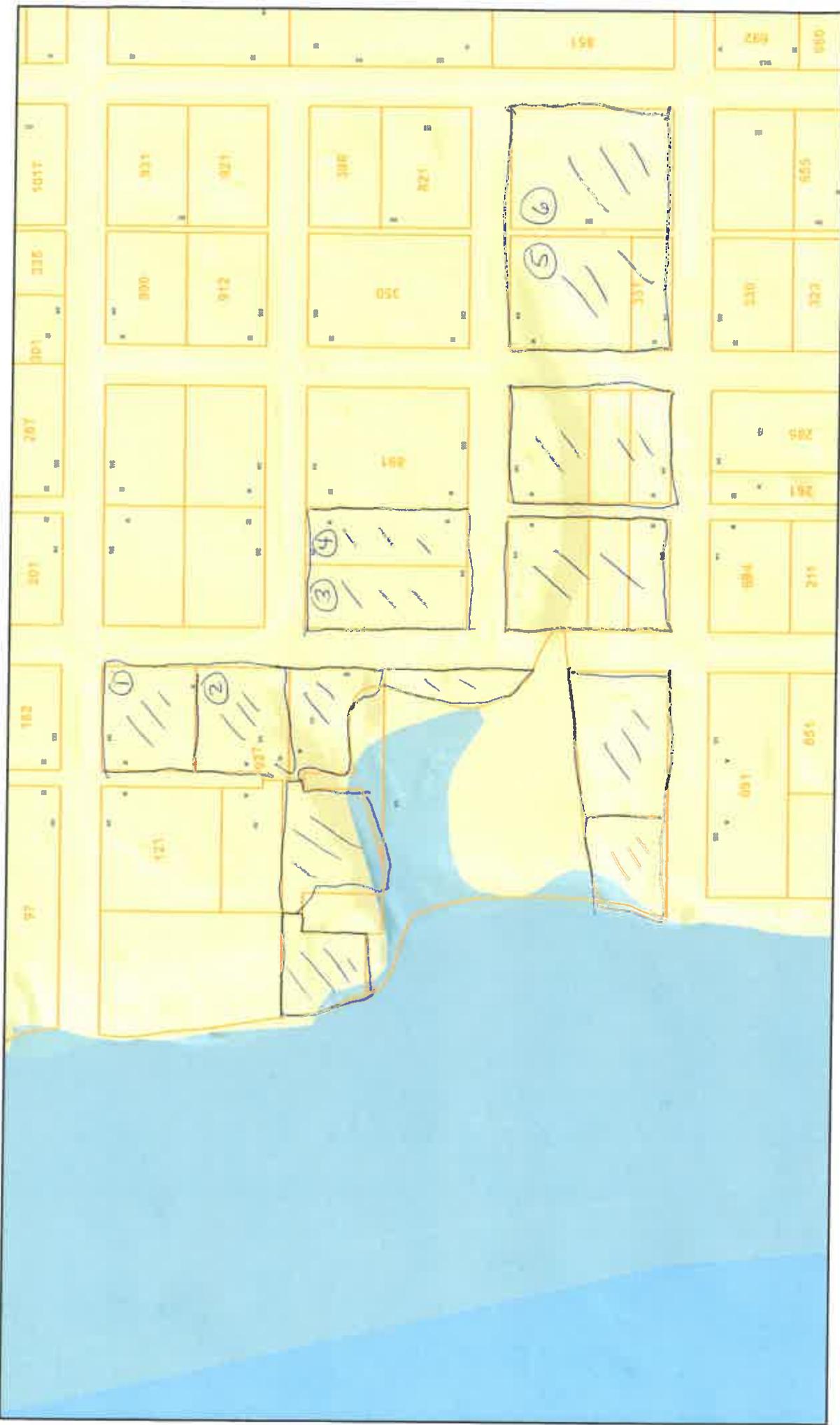
Motion by Geraghty, seconded by Ingemann, to adjourn the NEDA Meeting at 6:25 p.m. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tim Geraghty, President

Respectfully Submitted:

Renee Eisenbeisz
Assistant to the City Administrator

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MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

This drawing is the result of the compilation and reproduction of land records as they appear in various Washington County offices. The drawing should be used for reference purposes only. Washington County is not responsible for any inaccuracies.