

**Downtown Development Authority
Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting – per Executive Order 2020-48
May 26, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Lori Childs, Deb Doyle, Bart Harris, Colleen O'Toole Anna Tirtha, , Candyce Wolsfeld
Absent: Todd Acker, Dane Deisler, Betty Fuller, Mike Malachowski, Blair Pancheck, Larry Webb

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Tirtha moved, Harris supported to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Wolsfeld moved, Childs supported to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting, as presented. Motion carried

FINANCIAL REPORT: The City Treasurer summarized transactions since last meeting and stated that a more thorough explanation would be given with agenda item A which is approval of the 2020-2021 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- A. Tirtha moved, Wolsfeld supported to approve the 2020-2021 budget as presented. Motion carried
- B. Joe Borgstrom with Place + Main Advisors led a discussion with the DDA board regarding an update on our regional economic development strategy. Board members provided feedback to Borgstrom's questions regarding our downtown and what the DDA feels its biggest challenges are now and going forward. Childs and several other members feel that a lack of retail in the downtown area is a big challenge. Tirtha commented that a big positive for our city are the events we host. The conversation often focused on the current social distancing requirements due to COVID-19. Borgstrom stated that a popular and successful option for restaurants is for the city to allow for open parking spaces to be used for additional seating outdoors. O'Toole stated that the State of Michigan is considering a plan to allow for bars to have "social distance drinking" and that that is something Durand is also considering. Mayor Doyle stated that the city is very open to allowing outside spaces for different businesses. Borgstrom referenced the website reopenmainstreet.com as a good source for information related to COVID-19 and the re-opening process.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: The city manager provided an update on the economic development front and that the city is still actively marketing properties. She also gave an update on the ongoing street projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT/BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: No one spoke

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned 9:27 am