



Monday, May 4, 2020

Immediately following 7:00 pm Council Meeting

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY TELEPHONE PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATE STATUTE 13D.021 **RATHER THAN IN-PERSON AT THE EDA'S REGULAR MEETING LOCATION AT CITY HALL, 5200 85th AVE. N., BROOKLYN PARK, MN.** PRESIDENT JEFFREY LUNDE WILL BE PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND OTHER COMMISSIONERS WILL BE PARTICIPATING BY TELEPHONE.

Members of the public can monitor the EDA meeting by listening to it on CCX Media Channel 16 or by livestreaming it at https://nwscce-brooklynpark.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=5 Members of the public who desire to give input or testimony during the meeting may do so by texting EDA President Lunde at 763-242-1555 or email him at jeffrey.lunde@brooklynpark.org (Subject line: "EDA Testimony")

**THE BROOKLYN PARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK
SPECIAL MEETING – AGENDA #5**

**President Jeffrey Lunde, Vice President Susan Pha, Treasurer Lisa Jacobson,
Secretary Tonja West-Hafner, Commissioners Mark Mata, Terry Parks, Wynfred Russell and
Executive Director Kim Berggren and Assistant Executive Director Jay Stroebel**

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats, contact Theresa Freund, 763-493-8059 or email theresa.freund@brooklynpark.org.

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Our Mission: Brooklyn Park, a thriving community inspiring pride where opportunities exist for all.

Our Goals:

**Strong Neighborhoods • Adapting to Changing Demographics • Public Safety
Financial Sustainability • Community Image • Focused Redevelopment and Development**

I. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE

This provides an opportunity for the public to address the EDA on items, which are not on the agenda. Open Forum will be limited to 15 minutes (if no one is in attendance for the Open Forum, the Regular Meeting may begin) and it may not be used to make personal attacks, to air personality grievances, to make political endorsements or for political campaign purposes. Commissioners will not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the EDA will be for clarification only. Open Forum will not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to the comments made but, rather, for hearing the citizen for informational purposes only.

2A. RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

2B. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

II. STATUTORY BUSINESS AND/OR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

4. CONSENT

4.1 None

The following items relate to the EDA's long-range policy-making responsibilities and are handled individually for appropriate debate and deliberation. (Those persons wishing to speak to any of the items listed in this section should fill out a speaker's form and give it to the Secretary. Staff will present each item, following in which audience input is invited. Discussion will then be closed to the public and directed to the EDA table for action.)

5. Public Hearings

5.1 None

6. General Action Items

6.1 Consider Approving Up to \$20,000 from the EDA General Fund for the Installation of Infrastructure Associated with Wifi Provision in Underserved Apartment Communities.
6.1A Resolution

III. DISCUSSION - These items will be discussion items, but the EDA may act upon them during the meeting.

7. Discussion Items

7.1 None

IV. WORK SESSION

8. Work Session

8.1 None

V. ADJOURNMENT

Since we do not have time to discuss every point presented, it may seem that decisions are preconceived. However, background information is provided for the EDA on each agenda item in advance from City staff; and decisions are based on this information and past experiences. If you are aware of information that has not been discussed, please raise your hand to be recognized. Please speak from the podium. Comments that are pertinent are appreciated. Items requiring excessive time may be continued to another meeting.

City of Brooklyn Park Request for EDA Action

Agenda Item No:	6.1	Meeting Date:	May 4, 2020
Agenda Section:	General Action Items	Prepared By:	John Kinara, Housing and Redevelopment Specialist
Resolution:	X	Presented By:	Breanne Rothstein, Economic Development and Housing Director
No. of Attachments:	2		
Item:	Consider Approving Up to \$20,000 from the EDA General Fund for the Installation of Infrastructure Associated with WiFi Provision in Underserved Apartment Communities		

Executive Director's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2020__ APPROVING UP TO \$20,000 FROM THE EDA GENERAL FUND FOR THE INSTALLATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH WIFI PROVISION IN UNDERSERVED APARTMENT COMMUNITIES.

Overview:

On March 13, 2020 Governor Tim Walz declared a peacetime state of emergency in the State of Minnesota as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Since this declaration numerous Executive Orders have closed non-essential workplaces (which includes almost all publicly available internet sources), encouraged work from home for all employees and shifted schooling to online distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Many non-essential and essential life functions have shifted online to slow the spread of the virus, making access to the internet more critical than ever before.

On April 24, Osseo Area Schools and the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth approached the City of Brooklyn Park with the information that students across the city, and particularly in several specific apartment communities did not have reliable internet access. This has presented significant barriers to student success and has disproportionately affected low-income households and students of color in the school district.

Osseo Area Schools and Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth (BBAY) have requested Economic Development Authority (EDA) participation in taking quick action to provide reliable internet access to affected families at certain apartment communities.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider:

- **What is the problem?**

Osseo Area Schools has an estimated 500 families without internet coverage and many families with unknown internet status. There is reason to believe that the other school districts and charter schools would have similar rates of families without access. Due to COVID-19 stay at home requirements and the closure of schools, libraries, and other public WiFi spaces, home-based internet service is the primary method to conduct any business including distance learning, doctor's appointments, unemployment insurance applications, court hearings, therapy sessions and other meetings, employment and social interactions. A youth survey conducted by City of Brooklyn Park and BBA staff found that youth are very concerned about engaging in meaningful social interactions, and poor internet access was listed as barrier to youth well-being. Additionally, poor internet access is most frequent in low-income households and inequitable access to internet will exacerbate existing educational disparities.

- **What is the proposed solution?**

There are several possible solutions being rapidly considered to provide internet access to individual families or as public hotspots. Osseo Area Schools has purchased several hundred mobile hotspots for families and has learned of technology to provide a neighborhood hotspot. This neighborhood hotspot could provide WiFi capability for up to 100 users within a range of 500 feet. Osseo Area Schools is working with a local vendor, Solution Integration Partners, and estimates that approximately 20 neighborhood hotspots are required to serve the 1,600 homes at Huntington Place and The Willows. In the past week, the EDA has approached apartment property managers and Comcast to further investigate the ability to provide publicly available WiFi in each apartment building. Discussions are ongoing as to the best and fastest solution.

- **What is requested of the EDA?**

- 1) Leverage existing relationships with property managers to facilitate the logistics surrounding installation, determining appropriate contractual restrictions if any, with internet providers such as Comcast and Verizon, and getting approval to install the neighborhood hotspots or a similar such provision. Staff have begun this work and both Huntington Place and The Willows are researching existing agreements they have with Internet Service Providers. Additionally, staff has held conversations with Huntington Place and The Willows property management who are willing to have hotspots in their buildings.
- 2) Provide EDA funding to help cover the cost of hardware purchase and installation at Huntington Place, the Willows, and additional underserved apartments to the extent possible. It is estimated that the total cost of hardware is \$40,000 for Huntington Place and the Willows. Osseo Area Schools has requested half this cost from the EDA and are also exploring cost share with other school districts as well as a state grant. If the neighborhood hotspots are not possible, the school district will likely continue with their strategy of providing as many individual hotspots as possible. It is estimated that the EDA's participation could serve up to 750 families with internet for up to a year, depending on the strategy that is deployed.
- 3) EDA is also working with Comcast to provide better marketing and deployment of their Comcast Essentials program, which provides two months of free internet for qualifying households.

- **What are the next steps?**

If the EDA approves the recommended action, staff will work with Osseo Area Schools and other partners to determine the best and most cost-effective solution and will proceed to provide internet for currently unserved families. Staff will also continue to forge partnership with providers, other school districts, and the state to ensure internet is provided.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues:

The budget impact is \$20,000 to the EDA General Fund. The current 2020 EDA budget might have enough contractual service funds to absorb this project. If not, EDA staff will ask for a 2020 budget amendment at a later date.

Recommendation:

The Executive Director of the EDA recommends approval.

Attachments:

6.1A RESOLUTION

THE BROOKLYN PARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK

RESOLUTION #2020-

APPROVING UP TO \$20,000 FROM THE EDA GENERAL FUND FOR THE INSTALLATION OF
INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH WIFI PROVISION IN UNDERSERVED APARTMENT
COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority (“EDA”) was created pursuant to the Economic Development Authorities Act, Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.090 to 469.1080 (the “EDA Act”), and is authorized to transact business and exercise its powers by a resolution of the City Council of the City of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota (the “City”) adopted on October 24, 1988 (the “Enabling Resolution”);

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Tim Walz declared a peacetime state of emergency as a result of the COVID-19 virus outbreak; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak has led to the temporary closure of businesses and schools through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year, shifting operations online and making access to the internet more critical than ever before; and,

WHEREAS, Osseo Area Schools and the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth have approached the EDA to take quick action to provide funding for reliable internet access to residents; and,

WHEREAS, internet access would provide capability for residents at certain apartment communities to be able to conduct work related activities, distance learning, and all other day-to-day business; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority (the “Board”) as follows:

1. The EDA finds (a) that its objectives in encouraging development, redevelopment and expansion of certain property within the City would be advanced by the project and (b) that the expenditure of EDA funds for the installation of infrastructure associated with WI-FI provision in certain apartment communities, will help preserve jobs and prevent business closures, provide infrastructure necessary for the public health and welfare and otherwise further the purposes in Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.152 to 469.165.
2. The EDA hereby authorizes the expenditure of available EDA general fund dollars for the installation of infrastructure associated with WI-FI provision in the amount not to exceed \$20,000 and directs the Executive Director to execute agreements to commence this work.