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**Village of Elmira Heights Meeting Room
November 10, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Present: T. Amberg, Mayor M. Smith, G. Patelunas, Via Phone, J. Aiosa, C. Southard
Absent:
Excused: Julie Chevalier, Executive Director
Staff: Lisa Novitsky, Program Director

Mayor Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes –October 06, 2020:

Board members reviewed the Meeting Minutes. There were no additions and/or corrections.

G. Patelunas, made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes,
C. Southard, seconded; motion carried.

Financial Statements ending October 2020:

Board members reviewed the Financial Statements. There were no additions and/or corrections.

T. Amberg, made a motion to accept the Financial Statements as presented,
J. Aiosa, seconded; motion carried.

Approve Audit of Expenditures: Audit # 2020-1110 Dated 11-10-2020 Checks #378-380 & 1514

Board members reviewed the Expenditures. There were no additions and/or corrections.

C. Southard, made a motion to approve the Audit of Expenditures as presented,
T. Amberg, seconded; motion carried.

Economic Development

No new information to report at this time.



Update from the Mayor on the Heights Theater:

Mayor Smith stated that she heard the Elmira Heights Theater was being sold, or possibly donated to HIS Tabernacle church. If the owners are willing to donate, Mayor Smith suggested they donate the building to Urban Renewal, so the long history of the theater could be preserved and stay a theater. Also mentioned was the fact that if a religious organization takes over the building, the village loses tax revenue. J. Aiosa spoke to Josh, the theater manager. Josh had made an offer on the building, but it was not accepted. The public has expressed outrage in seeing the theater go away and into the hands of HIS Tabernacle. In addition, it was noted that there could be possible zoning issues and parking problems with a new business taking over. Code Enforcement Officer, Don Robe, stated that a new business coming into that building would have to conform to all the new building and code rules. There may be pre-existing and non-conforming rules with the theater that will have to be looked into with the Code Enforcement Office. The formal “use” of the building will need to be identified, if HIS Tabernacle becomes the owner.

Recognition of Persons Addressing the Agency:

None

Remarks:

Mr. Patelunas and J. Chevalier discussed offering a COVID relief loan for local Heights businesses. Urban renewal would offer business owners small working capital loans to help their business, if they are struggling during the holidays. It was suggested to offer small loans of \$2,500 for 12 months at 2% or \$5,000 at 3% for 24 months. Currently, URA is only earning .07% on the bank balance. By keeping the rates low, URA would still be able to earn money on the investments. The Grahams have two tenants not paying their leases due to COVID. Mr. Amberg supported the idea and believes it would show local businesses that Village supports them. It is also a way to keep them going so they stay open and keep their businesses here in the Village. The board would like to somehow poll the businesses to see if the interest is out there. J. Chevalier would need to create lending guidelines and an application process to make the loans secure for the program, but not overbearing for the businesses and URA to administer. Mayor Smith suggested a special meeting to discuss need and details. Mr. Aiosa has also offered to help in any way.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on December 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

G. Patelunas, made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

C. Southard, seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(On file)

Lisa Novitsky

Program Director