

**STEWARTVILLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY &
HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Meeting of August 18, 2026

City Hall - 6:00pm

Minutes

A. Call to Order - Roll Call – Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Board members Campbell, Buckmeier, Kuisle, Mayor King, Lonien, and Councilperson Arndt were present. Finance Officer Grabau and Community Development Coordinator Gehling were also present. Aaron Johnson with SMIF was present as a guest.

B. Approval of Consent Agenda

Matters listed below in this “Consent Agenda” are considered to be routine for the EDA and shall be approved by one motion. If further discussion is desired regarding any item, it may be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.

- a. EDA July 21, 2026 Minutes
- b. EDA August 18, 2026 Agenda

Motion made by Buckmeier, seconded by Mayor King to approve the consent agenda.
Unanimously approved.

C. Financial Update

Grabau presented the year-to-date financials to the Board and provided an update on the preliminary budget. Grabau noted that the Board’s requested \$100,000 for programming was included in the preliminary budget and explained that the final approved amount will be determined by Council.

D. New Business

- a. SMIF Presentation – Aaron Johnson with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) presented to the Board. Johnson provided an overview of SMIF’s work and highlighted recent grants, loans, and programs supported by SMIF in Stewartville and

Olmsted County over the past three years. Johnson thanked the Board for its continued support of SMIF and the opportunity to present.

- b. STAR Advertisement – Gehling explained to the Board that the Stewartville STAR requested renewal of the EDA’s sponsor page advertisement at a total cost of \$150 for the year. Gehling noted that the advertisement runs nine times per year and includes various community and school-related publications throughout the year. Following discussion, the Board agreed to renew the sponsor page advertisement.

Motion made by Mayor King, seconded by Kuisle to approve the Stewartville STAR’s sponsor pages for a total cost of \$150. Unanimously approved.

- c. Stewartville Scoreboard Sponsorships – Gehling informed the Board that the School District provided information regarding available scoreboard sponsorship opportunities in the high school gym and outdoor athletic facilities. Gehling noted that the sponsorships appeared to be more suited for local businesses and organizations but presented the information to the Board for consideration. Board discussion took place regarding the sponsorship opportunities and the five-year commitment. The Board determined that the sponsorships were not a fit for the EDA.

Motion made by Buckmeier, seconded by Councilperson Arndt to decline the sponsorship opportunity. Unanimously approved.

E. Old Business

- a. 2026 Residential Exterior Beautification Program Before/After Photos – Gehling presented before-and-after photos of completed Residential Exterior Beautification Program projects since the previous EDA meeting. The Board discussed the completed projects and the results of the improvements.
- b. City Cup Project Discussion – Gehling presented a proposed flyer for the community design competition for the City Cup. Gehling explained that the competition would be open to school-age children, with the winning designer receiving a \$50 gift card to a local business. Gehling also presented an estimate from 4imprint for the purchase of 180 mugs and noted that Full Court Apparel did not have the capability to print the 4-inch wrap-around design required for the mugs.

Following Board discussion, the Board directed Gehling to combine the 2025 City Cup Project with the 2026 project, release the competition information to the public on December 1, and set a February 28 deadline for design submissions. The Board also directed that the age requirement be expanded to include all school-age children from kindergarten through 12th grade and the winner get a \$100 gift card.

Motion made by Lonien, seconded by Mayor King to approve the City Cup Project to not exceed \$1,500. Unanimously approved.

- c. 2027 EDA Workplan + Future Project Discussions - Gehling presented the 2026 EDA Work Plan and requested Board input on potential changes for 2027, as well as future projects and programs to consider. Board discussion took place regarding the results of the 2025 Park and Recreation survey and the 2022 comp plan surveys, with splash pads and updated park bathrooms identified as areas of interest. The Board discussed potential locations for a splash pad, considerations for selecting a location, and the costs associated with extending sewer infrastructure to park locations for updated bathrooms. Trail connectivity and ongoing and future trail projects were also discussed.

The Board discussed housing as a priority for future EDA efforts, including the challenges developers face with the cost of large-scale developments and initial infrastructure. Potential strategies to encourage housing development were discussed, including opportunities to attract senior housing to the community and increase the availability of existing homes for younger families.

The Board agreed that the EDA should focus its 2027 efforts on additional research and studies to develop a plan for encouraging housing development in Stewartville in 2028. Gehling will also research splash pad projects and available grant opportunities and present the information, with the possibility of the EDA contributing some funding toward a future splash pad project.

- d. Community Updates - Mayor King provided updates on several upcoming City projects and community events, including progress on the north-end stoplight project, survey work for the future paving of 15th Street, and remaining summer concerts. Upcoming community events, including Fall Fest and Oktoberfest, were also discussed, with both events scheduled for September 19.

F. Adjourn 7:30 PM. – Motion made by Kusile, seconded by Mayor King to adjourn the meeting.
Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Gehling, Community Development Coordinator