

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

Meeting of September 15th, 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, Lonien, Wright, and Councilperson Arndt were present. Finance Officer Grabau and Community Development Coordinator Gehling were also present.

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 August 18, 2026 Minutes
- b. EDA September 15, 2026 Agenda

Motion made by Wright, seconded by Kuisle to approve the consent agenda. Unanimously approved.

C. Financial Update

Grabau informed the Board that the \$100,000 programming dollars request remains in the preliminary budget at this time and that updates will continue to be provided until the final budget is approved.

D. New Business

- a. Manufacturing Month – Gehling reported that the City will again partner with the Chamber to organize the manufacturing tour within the business district. This year’s tour will include visits to various local manufacturers. Gehling noted that Myrna Welter, with the Chamber, requested Board approval for an allowance of up to \$325 to purchase candy

for the tour. A brief Board discussion took place, with the Board expressing support for purchasing the candy for the manufacturing tour again this year.

Motion made by Lonien, seconded by Councilperson Arndt to allow up to \$325 for the purchase of candy. Unanimously approved.

- b. SMIF Donation – Gehling reported that Aaron Johnson, with SMIF, presented at the previous EDA meeting. Gehling explained that the EDA provided SMIF with a \$1,000 donation last year and that \$1,000 has been budgeted for SMIF again this year. Board discussion took place regarding SMIF's allocations back to Stewartville, with the Board expressing support for providing another \$1,000 donation this year.

Motion made by Wright, seconded by Buckmeier to donate \$1,000 to SMIF. Unanimously approved.

- c. Splash Pad Discussion – Gehling explained that at the previous EDA meeting, the Board instructed him to conduct research on a potential splash pad and bring additional information to the next meeting. Gehling reported that he contacted the City of Harmony regarding its splash pad but had not yet received a response. Gehling then contacted the City of Rochester regarding its latest splash pad at McQuillan Park. Gehling shared information received from the City of Rochester regarding project costs, water treatment systems, grant funding, and location selection. Board discussion took place regarding potential EDA involvement in a splash pad project and concerns about future maintenance costs for the City in addition to the current costs of operating the pool.

Further Board discussion took place regarding potentially focusing EDA efforts on research and planning for an indoor community center. Discussion included potential concepts for the facility and the role the EDA could play in the research and planning process. The Board decided to table further discussion of the splash pad at this time and await further direction regarding the potential for an indoor community center.

E. Old Business

- a. City Mug Project – Gehling presented the updated City Mug Design Contest flyer, incorporating the changes requested by the Board at the previous meeting. Gehling explained that the contest will be released on December 1, with a submission deadline of February 28. Gehling stated that the approved flyer will be distributed to the high school art teacher, Community Education, library, Chamber, and other organizations to help promote the contest. Board discussion took place regarding the updated flyer, with no

additional changes requested. The Board expressed enthusiasm for the design contest and the potential designs that may be submitted.

- b. 2027 EDA Workplan Rough Draft – Gehling presented the preliminary 2027 EDA Workplan to the Board. Gehling explained that in 2027, the EDA will place an increased emphasis on research, relationship-building, and identifying opportunities that can position the community for future investment and implementation. Gehling stated that the 2027 focus areas, in order of priority, are housing, quality of life, research and planning, business assistance, workforce, networking, community engagement, marketing, and transportation. Gehling requested feedback from the Board regarding any changes or additions to the workplan. Following a brief Board discussion, the Board decided to table the item until the next Board meeting to allow additional time for review.
- c. Community Updates – Gehling reported that progress continues on the new stoplight on the north end of town and the paving project for 15th on the east side of town. Campbell noted that she has seen Peace Park featured in senior pictures and commented that it was encouraging to see the park being utilized by the community. Buckmeier shared that the Fall Festival and Oktoberfest will take place on Saturday, September 19. Kuisle reported that Old Settlers Days in High Forest had a great turnout the previous weekend.

F. Adjourn 7:00 PM. – Motion made by Kuisle, seconded by Wright to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Gehling, Community Development Coordinator