

**CITY OF BAYPORT
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
July 6, 2015
5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by Mayor St. Ores.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor St. Ores, Councilmembers Goldston, Hanson, McGann, and Carlson

Staff Present: City Administrator Logan Martin, Assistant City Administrator/Planner Sara Taylor, and City Attorney Andy Pratt

DISCUSS POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN 2015

Administrator Martin stated that city staff has been investigating potential economic development projects that could be funded with a portion of the city's tax increment finance (TIF) funds. At the April 6, 2015 workshop, he noted that the City Council expressed interest in potential redevelopment of the vacant and blighted properties at 169 3rd St. N. using TIF funds. Two conceptual redevelopment plans for a municipal parking lot were reviewed and preliminary cost estimates for the project are estimated at \$400,000. Discussion followed on the status of available TIF funds. It was the consensus of the City Council to pursue discussions with the property owner for a potential purchase offer for the property for consideration at a future workshop or meeting.

Administrator Martin noted that city staff recently attended a presentation on community solar gardens where the city could participate in purchasing solar power through a consortium of other local government entities to offset city utility costs for energy currently provided by Xcel Energy. Following the presentation, staff arranged for a meeting with a representative from the company Sunshare to further learn about and discuss options for purchasing community solar power in Washington County. In order to be considered for participation in the consortium, the city would need to submit a letter of interest and support for the consortium solar program in the next few weeks. If selected, the City Council could then discuss community solar in further depth and consider whether it would be beneficial for the city to participate in the program. It was the consensus of the City Council to submit a letter of support and reconvene to discuss solar options at an upcoming workshop or meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Hanson and seconded by Councilmember Carlson to adjourn the workshop at 5:57 p.m.