



Evart Downtown Development Authority

Chair, Alan Bengry
Treasurer, Lynn Salinas

Vice-Chair, Gary Hartsock
Secretary,
Corey Juliano
Dan Boyer
City Manager, Pepper Lockhart

Brian Youngs

Director, Todd Bruggema

www.evartmainstreet.com

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REGULAR DDA MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 10th 2025 @ 4:00PM

Evart Depot

1. Meeting called to order by Bengry at 4:01 p.m.
2. Attendance: Present: Alan Bengry, Gary Hartsock (left at 4:49 pm), Lynn Salinas, Pepper Lockhart, Dan Boyer, Corey Juliano (arrived at 4:14 pm)
Absent: Brian Youngs
3. Introduction of Guests: Angela Hunter, Mark Sochocki
4. Citizens' Comments- A question was raised about a festival listed on October 11th that was on a mailing from Rep. Tom Kunse
5. Approval of agenda- agenda was accepted as presented
6. Approval of minutes – Moved by Salinas, supported by Lockhart to approve the minutes of the May 13th, 2025 meeting.
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Results: Carried
7. Approval of vendor's list- Moved by Hartsock, supported by Salinas to approve the vendors list in the amount of \$7,545.40 for the DDA and \$400 for the farmers market.
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Results: Carried
8. Treasurer's report-there were some small transfers made between accounts for cash flow purposes.
9. President's comments-None
10. Committee updates
Economic
Vitality/Design
 - a. Farmers Market will kick off on Saturday. The Yellow Window food truck will be there (BBQ). Angela has received several bags of books from the MOISD to provide to children. Received a \$500 grant for the Double Up food bucks program. Angela met with Tom Kunse at the Farm Bureau breakfast in hopes of enticing more farmers to participate with the market. Discussion was held about possible changes/ placement to the signs advertising the market location.
 - b. Pop-Up-to be discussed under new business.
 - c. Business Recruitment Primer-still in process
 - d. Benches-A check was mailed for the benches from FACH, but to the incorrect address. It is being re-issued.
 - e. Bump out garden maintenance is going well at this time.Promotion/Organization
 - a. Shop Local
 - b. Summer Arts- Jake Slater is scheduled for June 28 from 7 to 9 pm. Posters have been placed around town and the contract is signed.
 - c. Board recruiting- The executive board interviewed Mark Sochocki to fill a board vacancy..
12. Old Business
 - a. Downtown Historic District update-proposal was approved unanimously by the State of Michigan. Will now go to the national organization for its consideration.
13. New Business
 - a. 122 N Main St-Pop Up building
Moved by Hartsock, supported by Lockhart to list the property with Real Estate One for a price of

\$130,000 with the stipulation that the DDA Board has the final say regarding the purchase.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 1 (Cory Juliano) Results: Carried

- b. Benches have arrived and will be installed on main street-discussion was held about potential locations
- c. Update on 226 N Main St-Bruggema stated the current owner may want to request a variance to allow first floor residential use in the rear of the building. Owner has a plan for development and is coordinating with Bruce Johnston.
- d. Elect a secretary-discussion was held and Bruggema will inquire about interest
- e. Board vacancy
Moved by Hartsock, supported by Salinas to recommend the city council appoint Mark Sochocki to the Evert DDA/MMS board.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

- f. Strategic plan-It is suggested that 3 focus groups be arranged for meeting with planning firm on July 14th. The groups would be Community Organizations/Service groups, City Council/Planning Commission/ETC, Property owners/Business owners.
 - g. Main Street Evaluation Framework: Community self-assessment tool-this document was passed out to board members for completion and to bring to the regular July meeting for discussion.
- 14. Director's Comments-Bruggema and Lockhart gave a presentation at the Michigan Downtown Association gathering in Traverse City. They showed the board the slide show presentation that was given.
 - 15. City Manager's Comments-The Hometown Hardware building and two adjacent properties to the west are listed for sale.
 - 16. Citizens' Comments-None
 - 17. Adjournment

Moved by Salinas, Supported by Lockhart to adjourn

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Submitted by Alan Bengry