



Evert Downtown Development Authority

Chair, Alan Bengry
Treasurer, Lynn Salinas
Mark Sochocki
Dan Boyer

Vice-Chair, Gary Hartsock
Secretary, Brian Youngs
Cory Juliano
Pepper Lockhart
DDA Director, Todd Bruggema

www.evertmainstreet.com

(231) 734-0185



EVART DDA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2025

Community Room at The Depot

200 S. Main St. Evert, MI 49631

1. Attendance:

Present: Alan Bengry, Gary Hartsock, Lynn Salinas, Brian Youngs, Mark Sochocki, Cory Juliano, Dan Boyer, Teijin Wing,
DDA Director - Todd Bruggema

Absent: Pepper Lockhart

2. Meeting called to order at 8:01 am by Bengry

3. Introduction of Guests: None

4. Approval of Agenda w/the addition of Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Main Street Evart's 2026 Impact Report as new business items – Moved by Hartsock, Supported by Juliano

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Results: Carried

5. Approval of Minutes of the Nov. 11, 2025, regular meeting and Nov. 19, 2025, special meeting– Moved by Hartsock, Supported by Salinas

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Results: Carried

6. Approval of vendor list in the amounts of \$8,048.68 for the DDA and \$400.00 for the Farmer's Market – Moved by Juliano, Supported by Hartsock

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Results: Carried

7. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Salinas referred to the monthly financial/bank statements for the current account balances. Lynn also pointed out that both the Evert Housing Commission and Ice Mountain had made cash donations to the Jake Slater concert/fundraiser.

8. President Comments – None

9. Committee Updates

Economic Vitality and Design

- a. Farmer’s Market: Angela Hunter was absent. No updates.
- b. Pop-Up Building: Cory Juliano reported that there had been no new interest shown in the property.

Promotion and Organization

- a. DDA Board Recruiting – Todd reminded the group that there remains one open board position. He reminded the group to be thinking of and on the look-out for good candidates who either own property or own a business within the DDA district. Todd stated that he will personally make contact with anyone deemed a viable candidate.
- b. Volunteers – Todd made an appeal to those in attendance at the recent Jake Slater concert that the Evert DDA and the entire Evert community, constantly need and are always looking for people willing to volunteer for local events.

10. Old Business

- a. None

11. New Business

- b. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – Todd reported that the City of Evert has begun the process to establish a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. One of the necessary actions to accomplish this task is to establish/appoint a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority board. It has been discussed and suggested by Evert’s City Council that the Evert DDA board could also serve as Evert’s Brownfield Redevelopment Authority board. Todd also reported that Evert’s Brownfield Redevelopment Authority district will likely coincide with either the Evert DDA, the Evert Historic, or the Evert Main Street districts. A decision on that will be forthcoming. Todd and Alan polled the DDA board members in attendance on the proposition. The group unanimously agreed to the proposal if the project/process comes to fruition.
- c. 2026 Main Street Evert Impact Report – Todd distributed the 2026 Main Street Evert Impact Report and covered some of the highlights. The report details various demographic statistics of Evert and surrounding communities as well as a wide array of interesting business, commerce and other economic data. Todd asked the group to look over the report prior to next month’s DDA meeting and prepare for any discussion.

12. Director’s Comments:

- a. Todd reported that in his opinion, the Jake Slater fundraising concert was a success. 150 plus tickets to the event were sold. 160 plus meals were served (including meals for the volunteers). Todd noted that the Evert Housing Commission provided several volunteers to set up the Christmas tree and decorate the venue and that numerous members of Evert High School’s National Honor Society were also in attendance to help out in various capacities before, during and after the event. Todd also noted that the Evert Public Schools cleared snow to allow more (and closer) parking for concert attendees. Todd estimates that the concert should net the DDA approximately \$2k”e” after all expenses are paid and, in his opinion, the event should be held once again next year. Todd suggests getting a couple additional musical acts to perform in 2026. He would also attempt to get some additional coordination with the City of Evert on next year’s event to help make it bigger and better than this year. Alan suggested possibly applying for a grant from the Osceola County Community Foundation to help subsidize the cost of the event. Alan stated that Reed City applies for and receives grants from the OCCF every year for their musical programs and feels Evert could/should attempt to do the same.

13. City Manager Comments: None

14. Citizen Comments: None

15. Adjournment – Moved by Boyer, Supported by Juliano to adjourn

Ayes: 7
 Nays: 0
 Results: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:28am.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Youngs, Secretary