



**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HJEMKOMST CENTER AUDITORIUM - 202 1ST AVE N
MAY 4, 2026 - 11:45 AM**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Acting Chair Schlotfeldt called the meeting to order, and a roll call was taken.

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

Present (10): Siham Amedy, Amy Anderson, Evan Balko, Derrick LaPoint (attending virtually), Sheri Larson, Emily Moore, Jason Ness, Kim Schlotfeldt, Rob Sobolik, Deb White

Absent (0):

New members, Siham Amedy and Jason Ness, were introduced to the board. Both recently began their terms and were welcomed as the newest additions to the Economic Development Authority.

2. Agenda Amendments

There were no amendments to the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. March 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve made by Emily Moore and seconded by Deb White.

For 10: Siham Amedy, Amy Anderson, Evan Balko, Derrick LaPoint, Sheri Larson, Emily Moore, Jason Ness, Kim Schlotfeldt, Rob Sobolik, Deb White

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

4. Citizens To Be Heard

Stacia Sytsma, Executive Director of the Greater Moorhead Business Association, provided an update on a recent MBA-hosted event. She also discussed ongoing efforts to develop resources for Moorhead businesses and strategies for effectively delivering those resources to local business owners. To learn more, visit their website at: <https://greatermba.org>.

5. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Ness, Moorhead Public Service, provided an update on ongoing efforts throughout the city, including a current meter project designed to give residents improved access to their utility billing information.

Commissioner Schlotfeldt shared an overview of the Greater MBA's three- and five-year strategic planning in progress focused on supporting local business owners.

Joey Ness, Vice President of Business Development with the Greater Fargo

Moorhead Economic Development Corporation (GFMEDC), was invited to the podium by Commission White and provided an update on business retention and expansion efforts. He outlined how the organization evaluates changing business needs, supports potential expansions, and works to attract skilled workers as the region's business community grows.

6. Presentations

A. 2026 Legislative Priorities — Lisa Bode, Governmental Affairs Director

Lisa Bode, Governmental Affairs Director, provided an update on the City of Moorhead priorities as the 2026 legislative session heads into its final hour. She highlighted two bills the city is hoping will pass: the bonding bill with funding for Moorhead's top priority of flood mitigation, and a tax bill with policy changes to the Border City Enterprise Zone statute.

Commissioners had detailed discussion.

7. Business Items

A. Emery Affordable Housing TIF - Annual Certification of Tenant Eligibility

Amy Thorpe, Economic Development Program Administrator, introduced the item and provided background on the project and requirements related to the housing TIF. She reported that the annual eligibility review had been completed, and all requirements were met, recommending acceptance of the report to finalize this year's compliance process.

Commissioner White asked about the number of vacancies in the building. Amy Thorpe noted that there were eight vacancies at the time of the review and clarified that once units are certified as affordable, they remain reserved for qualifying tenants.

B. Economic Development Report

Matt Leiseth, DMI/Economic Development, provided an overview of the Economic Development Report and highlighted the Essentia Health Clinic project planned for downtown Moorhead. He also noted that The Loop | Moorhead Public Library held its grand opening event on April 18.

8. Information/Update

A. Spark Center for Entrepreneurship - [Link to Spark Center](#)

B. Downtown Moorhead Vision - [Link to More to Moorhead Website](#)

C. Building & Housing Updates - [Sign up for e-Notifications](#)

D. 11th Street Underpass Project - [Link to MnDOT Project Details & Updates](#)

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

EDA MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2026

Page **3** of **3**



Derrick LaPoint
EDA Chair



Evan Balke
EDA Secretary