

Harmony EDA Minutes

September 5, 2023
8:15 AM

Visitor's Center

Present: Steve Donney, Andy Batstone, Greg Schieber, and Michael Himlie

Also Present: Erica Thilges, Allison Whalen, Lisa Miller, Janell Randa, and Sam Grabau

The special meeting began at 8:15 AM.

2024 Chamber Budget Request Discussion

The board met in a special session to discuss in more detail the 2024 budget request proposed by the chamber of commerce. The meeting was for discussion purposes only and no action was taken.

Schieber explained a state statute that limits expenditures by cities to outside organizations for promotions of the community to \$50,000 per year. The definition of promotions were discussed including what could possibly be paid for under normal city or EDA authority, and not count towards this limit.

Donney reported that the city council budget committee was recommending an overall \$10,000 increase to for the EDA budget and discussed how the tax levy/budget process works. He noted that his goal was to keep the tax levy increase to about 3% overall this year.

The group discussed opportunities to have the city take over expenditures from the chamber that were actually more community benefits, such as portable toilets for the 4th of July celebration. Identifying such costs could help solve budget issues and not count towards the statutory limit at the same time.

It was agreed that the chamber should present its budget breakdown of potential city expenditures as well as its budget proposal and supporting documents to the EDA at the regular September meeting.

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.