



**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

5:33 pm

In-PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETING

Room 0041, City Hall

**By Phone or GoToMeeting:**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/471703029>

For the Public, Members of the media and the public may attend by calling: (US) +1 (872) 240-3412

Access Code: 471-703-029

All public participants' phones will be muted during the meeting except during the public comment period where applicable.

#### RDA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1) ~~100 W. Main St. block demolition, Town Square design etc., and publicizing town square project for possible funding from sources other than the City.~~
- 2) Facilitating quality development in downtown, and
- 3) Creating an approach and working to attract development projects downtown.

#### AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
  - a. Present: Becker, Salas, Zimmermann, Zastrow, Bartz, Kuenzi, Lampe, and Wagner
  - b. Absent: None
  - c. Also Present: Jeanne Mueller, Melissa Lampe, Barb Phelps, Stephanie Juhl, John Katsich, and Peg Checkai
3. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order at 5:40 pm
4. **Review/Approve:** Minutes of Previous Meetings – April 19, 2023 and April 20, 2023
  - a. **Kuenzi motioned to approve April 19. Zastrow seconded the motion.**
  - b. **Salas motioned to approve April 20. Zastrow seconded the motion.**

**Both minutes were unanimously approved.**
5. Public Comment
  - a. Phelps is asking for a follow-up community Q & A conversation (and nearby residents) to hear concerns after the Town Square is open for a while. She cautioned, be very protective of the Library and all that was put into creating that building.
6. Introduction of Stephanie Juhl, Town Square Programming Director
7. Status Reports
  - a. Mueller reported on website, social media, Town Square Q & A, and showed final Town Square video.
  - b. Bartz reported Town Square commission was approved.  
Lampe reported Becker provided the Council with a report on what the RDA and Executive Director do.  
Lampe requested updates on Town Square funding sources and Future Fund balance.  
Lampe reported a no smoking policy for parks and Town Square is in process.
  - c. Executive Director Update - Becker
    - a. Town Square – Construction
      1. Punch list walk through this week with CM Tony Meyers, Mason, Stephanie, and Kristine.
      2. Update on History Wall – received a sketch which needs to be approved by Barton. Proceeding as fast as we can.

3. Town Square Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening this Saturday, May 20.
  4. T Wall – Parking briefly discussed.
  5. Revolving Loan Fund report by Zastrow. Will have \$220,000 to lend.  
RDA will reopen applications June 1 with deadline July 15. Interest rate possibly 4.95% w/\$50 application fee.
  6. DNR is nominating the Town Square for a Brownfields award.
8. Salas Report
1. Discussed the Bethesda property. Suggests the RDA partner with Watertown Health Foundation and THRIVE to amplify their message/efforts by developing/deploying a communication program.
9. Beltz Community Grants
- i. Dr. John Beltz Foundation donated \$50,000/year for 3 years (2023-2025 with renewal option). Business Grant Program and Event Grant. Decision makers (sub-group of RDA board members and Dr. Beltz) Possible to layer with the Main Street Program and RDA Revolving Loan Fund.  
**Salas motioned to accept the Dr. John Beltz Business and Event Grant Programs contingent on review by City Attorney. Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**
8. Future Agenda Focus: None
9. Adjournment at 6:46 pm  
**Kuenzi motioned to adjourn, Bartz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.**