



**MINUTES**  
**Newaygo Economic Development Organization Meeting**  
**November 16, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Armstrong called the Newaygo Economic Development Organization (NEDO) Meeting to order at 3:00 pm at The Stream located at 1 State Rd., Newaygo MI 49337. Kim Goodin acted as recording secretary.

Roll Call: Present: Ron Armstrong, Matthew Boynton, Scott Faulkner, Ed Fedell, Jason Harris, Steven Radtke,

Absent: David Casey, Luke Francis, Morgan Heinzman, Cory Nelson, George Suchy

Others Present: Jon Schneider, Kelly Rider, Kim Goodin, John Buckley, Lindsay Hager, Krista Veal, Erin Burns, Georgia Andres

Motion by Fedell, second by Radtke to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

Motion by Radtke, second by Boynton to approve the 5/11/2023 NEDO Meeting Minutes. AIF/MC

Motion by Faulkner, second by Fedell to approve Resolution N23-02 setting meeting schedule for 2024. AIF/MC

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**BOARD BUSINESS**

Schneider, City Manager, discussed information included in packets related to the importance of buying local.

Armstrong, Board Member, explained the role of the NEDO Board and said that he hopes to get some State Representatives to attend future meetings. He spoke about the importance of sustainability as a board and community.

Lindsay Hager, Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer with Fremont Area Community Foundation, discussed a housing grant project that is being offered through the foundation stating that it is a collaborative project between the FACF and Newaygo County. He spoke about an Impact Investment Program Loan that is available through the foundation.

Radtke, Board Member, discussed how the expansion of the museum affects Economic Development in the community. He spoke about the meeting room and gallery space, rental opportunities available at the museum, and discussed a future sponsorship program for the museum that is being discussed.

Kelly Rider, Executive Director of River Country Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber Board had recently discussed the Chamber's mission and vision and will be focusing more on Business Resources to assist growth with current members. She stated that they hope to form a committee in 2024 to work on increasing the use of the Social District.

John Buckley, CEO Gerber Federal Credit Union, discussed interest rates and spoke about the importance of supporting businesses that grow and expand in the local community.

Julie Burrell, Economic Development Director, Newaygo County, was unable to attend the meeting, but had emailed updates related to Mercury Broadband, Newaygo County Economic Development Partnership strategic plan, a leadership program starting in 2024 and said that together with the FACF a \$50,000 grant had been received from the Michigan Office of Rural Development for capacity building to support each community in Newaygo County.

Faulkner, Board Member, stated that he is meeting many people in the café that are not from the area, but utilizing airbnbs in Newaygo County and said that they compliment the City of Newaygo on the City's vibrancy. Schneider stated that the City will be addressing short-term rentals in the near future as the City had recently received a request from a homeowner that would like the option to use their home as a short-term rental and currently short-term rentals are not discussed in the City Ordinances. Board discussed the pros and cons of short-term rentals in the community and the need for condos and mid-priced houses in the community.

Schneider discussed a list of current projects, future projects, and potential projects in the City that was included in packets. He spoke about a developer that is potentially interested in land behind Leppinks for additional apartments.

Chief Andres, City of Newaygo Chief of Police, discussed Public Safety Study that was currently being done and said that community growth affects the number of police officers, firefighters, and EMT personnel that are needed in the community.

Boynnton, Board Member, discussed the growth occurring at GM Wood Products.

Motion by Faulkner, second by Radtke to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm. AIF/MC

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Kim Goodin, Recording Secretary