

KENYON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 27, 2026

**Commissioners present:** John Mortensen, Don Kirchmann, Chris Mallery

**Absent:** Stuart Campbell, Mary Bailey

**Others in Attendance:** EDA Coordinator Todd Kieffer, City Administrator Scott Lehner, Kim Helgeson

The EDA meeting was held at Angie's Restaurant.

The EDA annual presentation for business owners was held at 8:10 am.

**REGULAR EDA MEETING**

President Mortensen called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Addition: / VI / New Business / C / Election of New EDA Officers

Addition: / VI / New Business / A / 4 / Finley-Armstrong Properties

Motion by Mallery seconded by Kirchmann to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried 3-0-0.

**APPROVE MINUTES AND FINANCIALS**

Updates were made to the 2026 budget as follows:

EDA Board Pay - Expense: increase from \$650 to \$2,100.

Lease-NAPA Store – Revenue: Delete

Motion by Bailey seconded by Kirchmann to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2025 meeting, the financials, and the updates to the 2026 budget. Motion carried 3-0-0.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/COMMENTS**

**REPORTS**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Firebird, LLC Update**

The purchase agreement with Firebird LLC has been signed, and title paperwork is nearing completion.

**Kenyon Commercial Club Request**

**Social Media Training Partnership**

The Social Media training will be held Friday, February 27, 2026 in the council chambers at 5:30 pm.

**February Reschedule Date**

The February meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, February 17, 2026 due to a conflict for Kieffer.

**ESMC: UMN Design Center Update**

The ESMC overall plan was presented to Kenyon business owners at the beginning of the meeting. The project includes ADA upgrades to the Depot building and access to picnic areas and playground, pickleball courts, walking trail around the park, access from Trondheim to Depot Park/pool, Safe Route to School crossing from Depot Park to K-W Schools.

### **Future Housing Development Update**

EDA discussions are ongoing and city leaders and residents understand that housing is an important need for the community.

### **Vacant Store Front Updates**

VFW

Event Center

Old Home Plate

NAPA - Municipal Liquor Store

Kenyon Sunset Home

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Facade Improvement Applications**

Robert's Retail and Repair

Motion by Mallery seconded by Kirchmann to approve \$4,000 matching grant to Robert's Retail and Repair. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Kenyon Meats

Motion by Kirchmann seconded by Mallery to approve \$4,000 matching grant to Kenyon Meats. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Municipal Liquor Store

EDA decided to table this request until the February meeting. We need to investigate further if this would be in accordance with the EDA facade agreement. If the business is paying taxes, then it will qualify.

Finley-Armstrong Properties

Motion by Mallery seconded by Kirchmann to put this application, not to exceed \$4,000 matching grant from Finley-Armstrong Properties, on hold pending a more detailed quote of work and pricing. Motion carried 3-0-0.

### **MN Housing Tier II Grants**

Reapplication

Kieffer submitted the Tier II Housing grant on January 22. Kenyon will be partnering with Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity on this grant. Affordable housing requirements will be followed. If awarded, this grant would provide \$75,000 to the city to support affordable housing through Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity. These dollars would need to be used by 2028.

### **ITEMS FOR NEXT EDA MEETING**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Kirchmann seconded by Mallery to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Motion Carried 3-0-0.

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*Holli Gudknecht, Deputy City Clerk*

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*John Mortensen, EDA President*