

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

June 17, 2019

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Special Session June 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

Members present, viz: Mike Ankeny, Chair
 Jeff Baldus
 Tim Gabrielson
 Jerry Reinartz
 Polly Glynn
 Trish Harren, County Administrator

Also present: Craig Hoium, Apollo Development

Commissioner Ankeny called the meeting to order.

Motion made by Commissioner Reinartz, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion under general business regarding the negotiations with DARCAN for the jail food contract. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Gabrielson, seconded by Commissioner Glynn, to approve the Transient Merchant application of TNT Fireworks for the sale of fireworks at Wal-Mart in Austin, MN effective June 20, 2019 through July 6, 2019. Motion carried.

A public hearing was held in regard to the tax abatement request of Apollo Development for a hotel project in the City of Austin, Minnesota.

Trish Harren, County Administrator, reviewed the request.

Craig Hoium, as investor and as representative for the development company and the other investors, appeared before the Board to speak in favor for the request for a three year (would consider a six year) tax abatement for a Grand Stay Hotel development in downtown Austin along Fourth Avenue NE. The estimated development costs for the project is \$6.7 million. The three year abatement is requested to offset the site preparation costs to make the site shovel ready. Mr. Hoium stated that in 2016 a feasibility study was conducted that showed a downtown hotel project to be a viable and good investment for the community.

No other persons appeared to speak for or against the tax abatement request of Apollo Development.

Commissioner Gabrielson noted that he had received dozens of phone calls expressing opposition to the abatement. Some of the concerns included parking and the lot size, belief the lot should have been shovel ready and green space is needed downtown too.

The Commissioners expressed disappointment that no other persons appeared to speak either for or against the tax abatement request.

Motion made by Commissioner Gabrielson, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to deny the request of Apollo Development for a three year tax abatement for the development of a Grand Stay Hotel in downtown Austin, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Trish Harren, County Administrator, provided the Board with an update on the results of attempting to negotiate a twelve month contract for jail food services with the current provider DARCAN. The parties have been unable to agree on terms for a new contract. The Sheriff and Jail Administrator recommend rebidding for jail food services with minimum food specifications as outlined by the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz, to rebid for jail food services with minimum food specifications as outlined by the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Gabrielson, seconded by Commissioner Baldus, to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Motion carried.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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