

**1. Call to order**

President Hallfin called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Commissioners present: President Steve Hallfin, Tim Brausen, Rachel Harris, Anne Mavity, Thom Miller, Margaret Rog, and Jake Spano.

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Chief Financial Officer (Mr. Simon), City Attorney (Mr. Mattick), Deputy City Manager/Human Resources Director (Ms. Deno), and Recording Secretary (Ms. Pappas).

**2. Roll call**

**3. Approval of minutes**

**3a. EDA meeting minutes of Sept. 3, 2019**

*It was moved by Commissioner Brausen, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve the Sept. 3, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

**4. Approval of agenda and items on EDA consent calendar – none**

**5. Reports – none**

**6. Old Business – none**

**7. New Business**

**7a. 2020 preliminary HRA levy certification. Resolution No. 19-12.**

Mr. Simon presented the report. He noted the HRA levy cannot exceed .0185% of the estimated market value of the city. He stated the EDA is allowed to authorize the HRA levy and then forward their recommendation to the city council. Council action is required before certification and all special taxing district levies must be certified to the county auditor by Sept. 30, 2019.

Commissioner Mavity stated she is very proud that this council and the community are prioritizing affordable housing against heavy market forces, along with helping kids stay in St. Louis Park schools and not lose their homes.

Commissioner Brausen stated the city has maintained this levy for a number of years, and in the past, it was used for infrastructure projects, such as the Louisiana Avenue and Highway 7 project. He stated he is glad this is moving in support of affordable housing, adding there is a tremendous need for affordable housing and the city will continue to devote resources to it.

Commissioner Rog stated she supports this levy and hopes the bulk, if not the entirety of the funds, go to the city's housing trust fund. She stated this is the city's most flexible tool to provide affordable housing, adding the more money in the fund, the better off the city will be in guiding affordable housing.

Commissioner Harris stated she is celebrating the council's move to support this levy, adding the city has an opportunity to support folks in need. She looks forward to creating opportunities for people's incomes, particularly in Ward 3, where the largest portion of students in the district receive free and reduced lunches and are in need of assistance.

Commissioner Miller stated the average St. Louis Park resident doesn't know that we have two levies, a general levy and an HRA levy. He added there is an affordable housing crisis in St. Louis Park, in the metro, and the country as a whole, and the city's targeted housing fund would make a dent in this problem. Commissioner Miller stated that is why he supports the HRA levy, because it is very focused, and he encourages his colleagues to put all of this levy into the housing trust fund and directly focus it on affordable housing.

Commissioner Hallfin stated the council talks a lot about affordable housing, adding this is one very good measure that will be put toward affordability in the city. However, he noted, this is being attacked from the wrong end, pointing out the wage gap that exists for many residents. He stated he would like to see wages go up and then the burdens won't be on the city as much as they have been.

*It was moved by Commissioner Mavity, seconded by Commissioner Harris, to waive the reading and adopt **EDA Resolution No. 19-12**, authorizing the 2020 preliminary HRA levy certification.*

*The motion passed 7-0.*

**8. Communications – none**

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.