

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

October 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Staples Economic Development Authority was called to order by Chairman Murray at 5:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28th, 2025, and was held in-person at the Staples City Hall council chamber. Present were Commissioners Bendsen, Bjerga, Case, Gertken, Murray and Tappe. With Gerard marked as absent. Also present were Staples World Editor Mark Anderson, Owner of Accura Tool Tom Seele, SEDA Executive Director Lucas Wakefield, and the Staples City Administrator, Jerel Nelsen.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and Case moved to approve the agenda as written. Bendsen seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

Minutes of the September 23rd, 2025, meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Bendsen and seconded by Bjerga to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

Wakefield gave updates regarding efforts on behalf of the LEAP strategic doing committee as well as the planned activities for the winter 2025 holiday season and future winter festivals. SEDA board discussed former Taylor Funeral Home across the parking lot from City Hall and decided to get a quote on the cost to demolish the structure.

Wakefield notified the SEDA board that an interested party had inquired about the possibility of acquiring the City-Owned, SEDA managed industrial park building and utilizing one of the units for a business expansion opportunity while continuing to rent the others. The board discussed what the process of considering a sale might be, including contingences which would be needed to protect current tenants as well as how to allocate the proceeds in the event of a sale. In order to have more information on the value of the property, the SEDA board requested that the director approach several regional appraisal firms for quotes and secure an appraisal on the building for the benefit of the board. Case moved to approve the appraisal and associated expenses with Bendsen seconding. The vote in favor was unanimous among members present, however Bjerga chose to abstain citing Lakewood Health being one of the current building tenants.

Wakefield also updated the board and advised that one of the tenants in the building, Stacker 3D, was several months delinquent on rent payments owed to the city for use of the SEDA industrial park building. Wakefield requested that the board decide whether to proceed with the eviction process and the board agreed that this would be appropriate with a target date of December 31st, 2025 for final date of occupancy. However, the board agreed that this eviction would be contingent upon the failure of the tenant to become current – and that if, prior to December 31st, 2025 that the tenant was to become current that the eviction would be nullified. Gertken made the motion to proceed with eviction. Bendsen seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous among members present, however Bjerga chose to abstain citing Lakewood Health being one of the current building tenants.

Wakefield gave updates on new businesses attraction/retention efforts. Wakefield also recommended that the board plan to update the City of Staples' Comprehensive Plan, obtain an updated housing study, and update the Staples Economic Development Authority Strategic Plan in 2027 and that the FY 2027 budget prepared in 2026 should reflect those expenses.

A motion was made by Tappe, seconded by Gertken to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Vote in favor was unanimous. Carried.

Lucas Wakefield, Secretary