



**CITY OF FENNVILLE**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City and DDA of Fennville Issue RFPs for Development of Downtown Parcels**

**Fennville, MI – August 21, 2025** --- The City of Fennville and Fennville Downtown Development Authority are seeking qualified proposals for the purchase and development of two downtown properties. This action follows a visioning process for potential future uses of the two sites that was recently completed. Successful proposals will lay out a plan to bring significant investment in “missing middle” residential options in downtown Fennville, as well as new retail space on Main St.

The two properties have been a focus of attention for Fennville’s recently re-activated Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, who worked with Opticos Design Inc. to envision a combined 26 residential units and 3,000 sf of retail space across the two sites. The site visioning packet was shared with developers on Lakeshore Advantage’s “Developer Tour” that made a stop in Fennville earlier this month, and participants were given a tour of the sites. While successful proposals will take inspiration from the visioning documents, the City expects developers to use their imagination regarding the sites as well. Proposals should be submitted separately for each property, and developers need not submit proposals for both if they are only interested in one of the sites.

The visioning packet can be found at:

<https://ecode360.com/FE6693/document/753170426.pdf>

The first property, covering 0.8 acres, straddles space between Main St. and Fennville St. Owned by the DDA alongside an adjacent parking lot, it is hoped that street frontage can be kept intact while parking will be accessible from the rear, via the public parking lot.

The second property, covering 0.375 acres, sits on the corner of Fennville St. and Maple St. Owned by the City, but currently leased by Huntington Bank for an ATM, it is expected that the ATM will be relocated to other City-owned property in anticipation of development.

“We can’t wait to see what proposals we’ll see over the next couple of months – we have already fielded inquiries from a couple of interested parties who just happened to drive by and see this prime real estate on Main St.” says Micah Machiela, DDA Coordinator.

“It has been a long-term goal of the Downtown Development Authority to see these vacant downtown spaces activated, and with nearby public and private development, the time is right to see what could go there.” says Katie Beemer, City Administrator.

Both properties are directly adjacent to the currently under-construction City Square Park being spearheaded by the DDA, which will bring a concert bandshell, splash pad, gas fireplace, and outdoor seating to the heart of downtown Fennville. The downtown is also seeing historic private and State investment with the recent announcement of the restoration of the Stevens Hotel, supported by a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

After submissions are received and the proposal deadlines included in the RFPs are reached, the DDA Board and City Commission will score submissions based upon the scoring criteria included in the RFP, followed by interviews with top scorers. A finalist will be selected and a Letter of Intent to Award issued in November, followed by negotiations with the finalist to work out specific details of the sale and proposal.

For more information, interested parties should contact Micah Machiela, Fennville’s DDA Coordinator, who can be reached at [mmachiela@fennville.gov](mailto:mmachiela@fennville.gov).