

**Athens Economic Development Corporation**

**Board of Directors**

**Minutes of Monthly meeting**

**For May 19, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Athens Economic Development Corporation (hereinafter referred to as AEDC) held a Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 in the Derek D. Daniels Room of the Athens Partnership Center located at 201 W Corsicana Street, Athens, Texas via Facebook live.

Directors present: Will Traxson, Danny Tidmore, Carmen Hunt and Randy Jones

Staff Present: Joanie Ahlers, Executive Director and Valerie Franklin, Office Manager

Ex-Officio: Mayor Monte Montgomery, City Manager Elizabeth Borstad

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 A.M. by President Will Traxson for all agenda items. A quorum was present.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Mayor Monte Montgomery will remove himself during Executive Session Prospect #1799.

**Public Communications**

None.

**Consider discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Minutes from AEDC Board Meeting April 21, 2020**

A motion was made by Randy Jones and seconded by Danny Tidmore to approve the April 21, 2020 Board meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider discussion and possible action regarding the approval of April 2020 Financials**

Executive Director Joanie Ahlers explained Sales tax revenue received in April 2020 was \$107,763.21 compared to \$106,390.54 in April 2019. This was a small increase over last year's.

Danny Tidmore made a motion to accept the April 2020 financial report and it was seconded by Carmen Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consider discussion and possible action regarding AEDC LOGO redesign**

Executive Director Joanie Ahlers presented two options for a new logo. She explained both are similar to the City's logo. President Traxson stated when he was at a conference in San Antonio, it seemed to help with marketing with EDCs having the LOGO being like the City's.

Randy Jones made a motion to approve Option 2 and the motion was seconded by Danny Tidmore. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider discussion and possible action regarding AEDC funding for East Texas Arboretum**

Mayor Montgomery presented this item on behalf of the East Texas Arboretum. He explained the Cain Foundation has assisted the Arboretum, but it was not enough. They have an insurance payment coming up in August. They have four full time employees. They have made a request for \$15,000.

President Traxson asked if the Arboritum applied for the PPP (Paycheck Protection Plan) or if they had completed an application and have we had other businesses contacted us for assistance?

President Traxson stated, we have been looking at a grant program so that we can assist businesses with and in the process, he understands a federal program has been found.

City Manager Borstad stated it is an allocation through the Texas Department of Emergency Management based on per cap. The total amount is 55 per head. A large portion of the funds must be spent on specific things and 25% to small businesses. The City would look to the EDC to set up the process.

President Traxson stated we have not had an application and we have talked about double dipping happening. He does not think we can decide on the Arboritum at this point because we do not have any guidelines set up. He asked for comments from others.

This agenda item was tabled for further discussion.

**Consider discussion and possible action regarding COVID 19 Small Business Assistance and appointment of Grant Review Committee**

Executive Director Joanie Ahlers explained the economic stages and timeline of the Covid-19 recovery. She introduced what other communities are doing and a sample application processes.

President Traxson stated when we had our grant programs, we had committees that would go through and set up the guidelines. He asked if Ms. Ahlers thought this was a good idea. She stated she had concerns with time, unless we do a special meeting. The committee would set the guidelines.

Carmen Hunt stated she was confused about the origin of money we are going to be granting.

Mayor Montgomery stated there was a meeting discussing the use of current funds. This was before the federal funds became available. The funds used will be federal funds that the City will be awarded.

The committee was appointed by the President. The committee members are Carmen Hunt, Morgan Jones, Will Traxson, Elizabeth Borstad, Mandie Quigg and Joanie Ahlers.

**Discussion regarding RFQ for Athens Industrial Park Roadway and Drainage**

Requests for Qualifications will be sent out to five or six engineering firms that could provide a response. Currently there is one way in and one way out of the Industrial Park. It becomes a choke point. We have some of our largest employers in this area, Biomerics and Schneider Electric for example trying to move employees in and out roughly about the same time of day. The roadway will sometimes flood and then no one can get in or out including emergency vehicles. The City will go out and clean out ditches to help provide temporary easing.

A motion was made by Danny Tidmore to approve a Request for Qualifications. It was seconded by Carmen Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consider discussion and possible action regarding AEDC Budget Update and appointment of AEDC Budget Committee**

The goal is to have our budget approved by July 21, 2020. Our final budget would come to our full board for approval and then on August 10, 2020 to the City Council.

A budget committee was appointed. Executive Director Joanie Ahlers, City Financial Director Mandie Quigg, Cliff Bomer and Randy Jones.

**Executive Session**

**Pursuant to the Texas Government Code:**

**A. Section 551.087 – Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations: Prospect #1799**

The board entered in executive session at 11:08 A.M.

The board re-convened in open session at 12:08 P.M.

**Consider discussion and possible action concerning items discussed under Agenda item #9**

Prospect #1799 was tabled for further discussion.

**AEDC Board of Director's request for future agenda items**

None

**Adjourn**

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 P.M.

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Carmen Hunt, Secretary

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Will Traxson, President