



LIBERTY HILL EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 3, 2021 – 5:00 PM

Location: Liberty Hill Municipal Court

2801 Ranch Road 1869 - Liberty Hill, TX 78642

John Johnston - President

Eric Bailey – Director

Michael Helbing– Director

Liz Rundzieher – Director

John Clark – Vice President

Jamie Etzkorn – Director

Adrienne Hughes – Director

CALL TO ORDER

Johnny Johnston, LHEDC Board President called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at 2801 Ranch Road 1869 in Liberty Hill, Texas. Invocation was given, followed by receiving the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRESENT:

Johnny Johnston, John Clark, Liz Rundzieher, Eric Bailey, Adrienne Hughes, Jamie Etzkorn, and Matt Powell.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Pezold – 3607 RR 1869 addressed Council stating the \$58,000 the EDC spent on graphic design and gateway signs could have cost less if Mr. Pezold had taken care of it. He then discussed his development with trail. He states the City’s downtown is what sets it apart. Mr. Pezold stated his trail system and parks donation will make it easier for movement throughout the downtown area. He stated that if the trails were paved, bikes and wheelchairs could be used as well.

Johnny Johnston stated Mr. Pezold’s time was up because Mr. Pezold chose to speak on a topic that was not part of the agenda.

Mr. Pezold stated that it was illegal for him to not be able to speak about anything he wanted to speak on.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Eric Bailey, Treasurer, stated there is nothing to report at this time.

REGULAR SESSION

Update on Entry / Gateway signage.

Lacie Hale, City Administrator, stated there is one sign planned for E Hwy. 29 and one for W. Hwy. 29. Build time should be 60-90 days and project is currently in the administrative stage.

Discuss and consider approval of the minutes of the EDC meeting held January 6, 2021.

On motion by Liz Rundzieher and second by Johnny Johnston, the board approved the minutes of January 6, 2021.

Motion passed on vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Discuss and consider action to approve a Business Incentive Program grant application from Main Street Social.

Matt Powell, Executive Director, addressed the Board stating Mr. Prince had met previously with the former executive director so that has been a while. Mr. Prince is seeking to offset his cost of LUEs. Johnny Johnston stated the EDC has helped with LUE costs in past years. Following discussion, the board postponed the item until the next meeting to allow time for review of past program parameters.

Discuss and consider a Business Improvement Program grant for Mrs. Amy's Adventures.

Mr. Powell addressed the Board stating Mrs. Amy's Adventures put a lot of money into the former daycare building with interior repairs. However, Mr. Powell does not believe the application meets the criteria of the program. The request is for \$5,000.

John Clark said that as the program stands, this application does not qualify. He stated he feels that the EDC should not be in the interior repair business, which was the consensus of the board as well.

On motion by John Clark and second by Liz Rundzieher, the EDC board denied the application. **Motion passed on vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

Update from the Bylaws Committee.

Jamie Etzkorn, Liz Rundzieher, and John Clark met and found several issues. They request assistance from the City Attorney on other cities' bylaws.

Update on Board Member training.

Matt Powell stated that there are two training videos the board needs to take and a sales tax workshop through the TEDC. Jamie Etzkorn has completed these trainings. There are upcoming workshops in the region. Mr. Powell stated he would like the board to be a certified EDC.

Discuss and consider setting a date for the EDC retreat.

Matt Powell, Executive Director, stated at some point he would like to have an out-of-town and team-building type retreat but for now, he is recommending an in-town retreat. Following discussion, the Board decided on March 18 (Thursday) beginning at 1 PM and ending March 19 (Friday).

Update on the EDC website.

Per Matt Powell, the site will link to the prospector website. The EDC owns the URL. The sites should be live by the first or second week of April. The related social media sites will be available around that time as well.

Discussion and possible action on the EDC insurance policy.

Matt Powell addressed the board stating the EDC does not currently have general liability insurance. Mr. Powell hopes to present a couple of options soon.

Discussion on possible Winter Storm Relief Grants.

Matt Powell stated he has spoken with Mayor Branigan who thinks this is a good idea. He stated if the Board also feels this is a good idea, he can put together an application for consideration at the next Council meeting. Following discussion which included,

- Number of employees in business
- Their business insurance and deductible
- Confirmation that a business is not covered by insurance

The Board asked that Mr. Powell visit with businesses to gauge their needs and level of insurance coverage.

CONVENE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Johnny Johnston, President, convened the board into Executive Session at 5:49 PM for discussions pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.071 – Consultation with Legal Counsel and Texas Government Code §551.087 – Economic Development Negotiations. No action would be taken in Executive Session.

- Update and review of Economic Development Projects:
 - Project W2
 - Project Dinger
 - Project Toybox
 - Project Stagecoach

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

Johnny Johnston, President, reconvened the board to Regular Session at 6:09 PM for discussion and action related to:

- Update and review of Economic Development Projects:
 - Project W2
 - Project Dinger
 - Project Toybox
 - Project Stagecoach

No action was taken.

BOARD CLOSING COMMENTS

Matt Powell suggested setting the next meeting for Wednesday, March 24th at 5 PM. The board agreed.

Jamie Etzkorn exited the meeting at 6:10 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

OUTCOME: On motion by Liz Rundzieher and second by Eric Bailey, the Liberty Hill Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Motion passed on vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

PASSED AND APPROVED on March 24, 2021 by the Liberty Hill Economic Development Corporation Board of Director on vote of _____ AYES, _____ NAYS, and _____ ABSTENTIONS.

Nancy Sawyer
City Secretary
LHEDC Board of Directors