

MINUTES
GROVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
GROVES CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rob Vensel, Rhonda Dugas, Mark McAdams, Paul Oliver, Letha Knaus, Sidney Badon, Brandon Monk

ABSENT: Derick Theall

President Vensel called the meeting to order.

President Vensel welcomed guest and news media.

ITEM III:

Mr. Vensel asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the August 14, 2023 Groves Economic Development Corporation Meeting. A motion was made by Mark McAdams and a second was made by Letha Knaus. There were no questions, and a record vote was taken. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ITEM IV:

There were no citizen comments.

ITEM V:

Mr. Billeaud reported there is not any movement on the hospital and that Mr. Smith is waiting on bids for the demolition of the building. It will probably be after the first of the year before work commences on the building. Weather permitting. Mr. Smith has hired a person to cut the grass.

ITEM VI:

Discuss Budget Report with Mr. Ozley. Reimbursements/Expenditures were discussed. Texas Proud, A Lot of This N That, Tricia's Salon. We will be increasing the fund balance by \$200,000.

ITEM VII:

Discuss Monthly Sales Tax report by Mr. Ozley. The sales tax numbers are 41% more than last year. \$196,000 to \$276,000 and that is a credit to the

various business establishments in Groves. Last year at the end of 2022 we had our record sales tax of \$2,623,000 and we have a new record of \$2,694,000. Mr. Ozley guessed the end of 2023 would be \$2.9 million.

ITEM VIII:

Mr. Vensel called for a motion to be made for a discussion on a length of time to receive a proclamation of congratulations from the GEDC and on purchasing a new seal for the EDC. A motion was made by Sidney Badon and a second was made by Mark McAdams. Suddenly the lights went out and then came back on. Rhonda Dugas said last time we met we talked about the GEDC giving out proclamations and congratulations to businesses.

Mrs. Knaus had recommended having a five (5) year proclamation for businesses. Also, a discussion about ribbon cutting, (Chamber of Commerce), how it would work in that scenario; some businesses had rejoined the Chamber would we present a proclamation after the Chamber had their ceremony or If we would give a congratulations instead of a proclamation in the proper situation from the EDC. Rhonda Dugas stated that Groves is the only EDC doing this. Clarissa Thibodeaux looked at how much a seal would cost and the gold stickers. It would be along the lines of what City Council does and it would be separate from City Council however, Ms. Dugas said she always adds City Council to the wording. The wording would not only be a basic wording it would also be a wording the businesses want to include. Mrs. Kanus stated in her experience that 5 years worked for a proclamation for an established business.

Sidney Badon responded three (3) years would be good for an established time period for a business as this would bring more recognition to the businesses since we have more small business in Groves. Mark McAdams asked Jennifer Chang of Icy Donuts what she thought. If she would like to see a proclamation at three (3) years or five (5) years. Ms. Chang said I would not want it to be too long because everyone works so hard in the first year. Sidney Badon said that showing as a city and the EDC Board we recognize businesses at intervals would help other small businesses say that the city cares about small businesses. We could have the proclamation at three (3) years; the Congratulations at the one (1) year mark. Mrs. Knaus stated that the Chamber has a banner made that says congratulation on your anniversary and it does not have a specific year so it can be used repeatedly.

Second Part of this Item is in reference to the seal. What should be the price point for ordering the seal, gold stickers, paper, etc. that goes with it.

The board responded the price should not exceed \$60.

A motion was made to have a congratulation at the grand opening and a proclamation at a three (3) year interval and not to exceed \$60 for the seal etc. The motion was made by Sidney Badon and second by Mark McAdams.

The Board took a record vote; all were in favor; none opposed Motion carried.

ITEM IX:

Discuss and take a vote on reimbursing Rhonda Dugas for \$12.15 for postage and a frame and take a record vote. Rob Vensel called for a motion which was made by Mark McAdams and a second by Letha Knaus. Mr. Vensel called for a discussion. Record vote was taken; all were in favor. None opposed. Motion Carried.

ITEM X:

Review and approve Grant Application for Icy Donuts Inc. in the amount of \$2,500 for advertising. Take a record vote. Mr. Vensel called for a motion and a second. The motion was made by Letha Knaus and a second by Mark McAdams. Mr. Vensel called for questions and there were none. Mr. Vensel called for a record vote. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

ITEM XI:

Review and approve Grant Application for Larry & Rita's Don Lupe, Inc. in the amount of \$2,500 for advertising. Take a record vote. Mr. Vensel called for a motion and second. The motion was made by Sidney Badon and second by Rhonda Dugas. Mr. Vensel called for any questions and Rhonda Dugas asked for a signature on the application and it was provided. Mr. Vensel called for a record vote. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion Carried.

ITEM XII:

Review and approve Grant Application for Texas Proud H2O. Mr. Vensel called for the item to be tabled. Rhonda Dugas said that Mr. Varella would like to wait until October or November etc.. Mr. Vensel called for a motion and second to table this item. The motion was made by Mark McAdams and a second by Sidney Badon. Mr. Vensel called for a record vote. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion Carried.

ITEM XII:

GEDC member comments:

Rhonda Dugas asked a question about painting windows and if the board would consider that outside signage or advertising, she referenced Marias diner. Painting a window would be considered temporary and not permanent with the building so, it would not be considered a reimbursable item. Mrs. Knaus responded that the Chamber would be doing a promotion during October to paint PNG Indians on the windows and that would be temporary, and it would be during The Pecan Festival. Paul Oliver stated that it could change with the seasons, for instance Christmas.

Mr. Vensel called for other comments. None

ITEM XIV:

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.