

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
GROVES CITY HALL
AUGUST 14, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rhonda Dugas, Mark McAdams, Paul Oliver, Derick Theall, Letha Knaus, Brandon Monk

ABSENT: Rob Vensel, Sidney Badon

Ms. Rhonda Dugas called the meeting to order at 5:52 P.M.

Ms. Dugas welcomed guest and news media.

ITEM III.

Ms. Dugas asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023 Groves Economic Development Corporation meeting. A motion was made by Mr. McAdams and a second was made by Mrs. Knaus. There were no questions, and a record vote was taken. Motion passed.

ITEM IV.

Ms. Dugas called for citizen comments. There were no citizen comments

ITEM V.

Ms. Dugas asked if there were any business updates, potential business and any new information on existing structures. Ms. Dugas said Ms. Olivia Told her that Sylvias had been sold. It was confirmed the business had Been sold but we were not informed who purchased the building.

ITEM IV.

Present, review, discuss the monthly sales ax report for July 2023 by Mr. Ozley. Ms. Dugas said the report was in the email agenda.

Mr. Ozley said we had two good months, and they were better than the previous year month. June and July sales tax numbers are greater than the previous year. We are \$210,000 of the whole sales tax greater than we were last year. It could be contributed to retail stores opening and re-opening and a sister business remodeling, local restaurant opened with

new name and new owners, with new entertainment. We still have inflation but it has eased for a few months. Mr. Ozley stated cautiously we might take in \$2.5 million sales tax for a year which would be a new record for us. Ms. Dugas called for comments and questions. There were none.

ITEM VII.

Present, review and discuss the Budget Report for July 2023. Mr. Ozley went over the budget report, each board member was given one at the meeting. We had an expenditure last month for \$7,300 for This N That and the 1/3rd portion of sales tax GEDC receives. We looked at the beginning fund balance, and the estimate for the year end. Conservatively we could bring in \$70,000 to \$80,000 next month sales tax and conservatively we would have an ending fund balance of \$1.6 million come the end of the year. The biggest expenditure for the GEDC every year will be the debt on the fire station approximately \$580,000. Ms. Dugas called for any questions for the budget report and there were none.

ITEM VIII.

Discuss, consider and approve awarding Groves Economic Development Corporation Proclamations to Groves Business. Ms. Dugas called for a Motion and a second. Motion made by Mr. Theall and second made by Mr. Oliver. Ms. Dugas explained how this came about and started by Stating that the GEDC previously voted on February 13, 2023 to make changes for the GEDC in October. Ms. Dugas said she sent the Board members an invitation to the Icy Donuts second year celebration. The Board members confirmed they received it. Ms. Dugas said she went to See Jennifer and she asked if the city could do something for her. I said well the city gives out proclamations. I went to see Mr. Billeaud and while I was talking to him Clarissa walked in and said why doesn't the EDC give her a proclamation. I thought that's brilliant. I will take it before the board and we will discuss it. It is on the agenda because the celebration is on Thursday the 17th. Ms. Dugas stated she would like for the board to not only do this for Icy Donuts but begin to do it for the businesses in Groves for ribbon cuttings and grand openings. Ms. Dugas called for any comments, recommendations, and discussion. Mrs. Knaus said she thought it was a good idea she does not know of any city that does it on a yearly basis. It would be too frequent. Mrs. Knaus suggested giving a proclamation for every five (5) years for a business and that it would give the businesses the support they need. Ms. Knaus suggested a certificate for anniversaries for the number of years in business. Ms. Dugas said the

board can vote on the specific language on any proclamation and certificate that is issued by the GEDC. Ms. Dugas called Mr. Theall to amend his motion to issue a proclamation for Icy Donuts on the 17th. Mr. Oliver seconded the motion. All in favor non opposed. Motion passed.

ITEM IX.

Discuss, consider, and approve a onetime transfer of funds in the amount of \$150,000 to the general fund for the administrative cost of employee health insurance premiums. Mr. Dugas called for a motion and a second. Mr. McAdams made the motion, and Mr. Theall seconded. Board members were in attendance at the City Council meeting where this was fully discussed. Ms. Dugas called for Mr. Ozley to present the information to the board. This is greatly appreciated. Mr. Ozley thanked the board for the generous offer to help the employees. It will be transferred as an administrative fee. The previously agreed upon amount was \$75,000 and with the \$150,000 it will be \$225,000. This money will be give to the various health insurance per department. Mrs. Knaus stated just as we support our businesses, we are supporting our employees. Ms. Dugas called for a vote. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

ITEM X.

Review and approve Grant Application for Tricia's Salon in the amount of \$1,667.80. Ms. Dugas called for a motion and a second. Mr. McAdams made the motion and Mr. Oliver made the second. Ms. Dugas called for a discussion and asked Mrs. Hernandez to come to the podium and address the board. Mrs. Hernandez thanked the board and told us she had been open for 33 years as of August 8th. Ms. Dugas called for a vote. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passes.

ITEM XI.

Review and approve Grant Application for Texas Proud H2O in the amount of \$2,500 advertising and \$5,000 Ingress/Egress to total \$7,500.00. Ms. Dugas called for a motion and a second. Mrs. Knaus made the motion and Mr. Theall made the second. Ms. Dugas called for a discussion. Mr. Varella's daughter came to the podium and addressed the Board. She thanked the Board and told us how they have been in business for 10 years in Groves. Ms. Dugas called for a vote. All in favor and none opposed. Motion passes.

ITEM XII.

GEDC Member Comments.

Ms. Dugas commented that she had visited three different businesses and took the Spanish GEDC documents to Belin' Bakery. Ms. Dugas asked Mrs. Knaus if she could visit the bakery because Mrs. Knaus speaks Spanish.

ITEM XIII.

Adjourn at 6:22