

## MINUTES

CITY OF GROVES EDC

MARCH 13, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Rob Vensel

### IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Vensel, Rhonda Dugas, Paul Oliver, Mark McAdams, Lance Billeaud, Brandon Monk. Absent: Sidney Badon

Welcome to everyone in attendance by President Vensel. Meeting called to order at 5:58 p.m. by President Vensel.

### Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Vensel called for a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023 EDC meeting. Mr. McAdams made the motion and Mr. Oliver made the second. There were no questions asked. All in favor voted aye, no one voted no. Motion carried.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS: NO

### Business updates from the EDC President:

No updates on the Hospital or the building on 39<sup>th</sup>. The new car wash being built has a sign up advertising to hire people. Ms. Dugas said she sent an email to Mr. Billeaud for updates and he did not have any new information on the Hospital or the building on 39<sup>th</sup>.

### Item VI:

Monthly Sales Tax report from Comptroller. Sales tax was reported on the Budget Report. Mr. Ozley was unable to attend and we were not able to get the full report printed. Mr. Vensel reported the amount collected on the Budget Report was \$68,191 as of the GEDC meeting.

Item VIII:

Approving monthly non grant expenditures. Mr. McAdams made a motion to review or approve monthly non-grant expenditures and a second was made by Ms. Dugas. Ms. Dugas suggested this item be tabled since Mr. Ozley was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. McAdams changed his motion to table this item and Ms. Dugas seconded. The item was voted on and tabled.

Item VII:

Review and discuss Budget Report. Mr. Vensel stated the sales tax added in March to the GEDC account was \$68,191. Ms. Dugas stated the Budget Report will be a regular report for every meeting. Mr. Ozley was notified by email GEDC would require this. The report will be ongoing and accumulative financial information from the month of October (the beginning of the budget year) through the present month. Board members will be able to see all income and expenses and every financial transaction from the GEDC account. Mr. Vensel stated that this is a good breakdown of expenditures from the GEDC. Mr. Oliver stated that this is good. Ms. Dugas said if anyone wanted any additional information added to the report to email her.

Item IX:

Review and approve any future GEDC non-grant expenditures. This refers to the \$125,000 transfer to general funds and the \$579,750 for the payment for the Fire Department. Ms. Dugas stated the Board would need to table the item as Mr. Ozley was unable to attend. Mr. McAdams made a motion to table the item and Mr. Oliver seconded. Mr. Vensel asked for questions and Ms. Dugas stated that the \$125,000 was discussed during the budget

talks last year 2022 that any money taken out of GEDC for any reason should be voted on first then taken to City Council for their vote and this was discussed at City Council. Ms. Dugas stated she wanted to know the exact dates these items would be taken out of EDC. Mr. Vensel, lump sum or incrementally and adjust that amount on the next budget? Dugas, yes right and we need to vote on it before it goes to city council. Mr. Oliver said and before this expenditure. Basically EDC is paying for services? Mr. Vensel, the \$125,000 is paying for the Directors salary and we do not have a director any longer. Ms. Dugas we will need to talk about it and be clear about where the \$125,000 is going. Mr, Vensel we can reduce that amount. Ms. Dugas it was \$75,000, I don't think they need any more than \$25,000. Mr. Vensel called for any other discussion. A vote was taken to table this item, all voted aye. None opposed, motion carried.

#### Item X:

Budget reports for the years: 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023,. Mr. Oliver made the motion and Second was made by Mr. McAdams. Ms. Dugas stated the Budget Report will be reflecting everything done from October through December. Ms. Dugas asked if the Board would want the year 2019-2020 as well. The Board requested the year 2019-2020. Ms. Dugas stated she will email Mr. Ozley. Mr. Vensel took a vote for all in favor of this format for the Budget Report. All in favor said aye. No opposed, motion carried.

#### Item XI:

Application for the Electronic Billboard. Mr. McAdams made a motion to discuss and vote on the application, the wording, and the amount to pay for the Electronic Billboard and a second was made by Ms. Dugas. Mr. Vensel called for a discussion. Ms. Dugas stated she had spoken to Ms. Sadie Lupu about the billboard and the pricing. Ms. Lupu said she would not charge the EDC per character used for the wording she would charge the flat fee. Daily rotation is \$20, weekly is \$100, and the monthly rotation is \$350. The sample wording is on the agenda: EDC helps Businesses. Applications available inside City Hall Contact City Clerk 409-960-5773. Mr.

Vensel asked if the Board agrees to spend the funds to advertise on the billboard. Mr. Vensel said this would reach a lot of people that have not known about EDC. The Board suggested a month. We will start for the month of April. It would be a continuous scroll for the month. Mr. Vensel called for questions. Mr. Oliver suggested every other month and monitor the response. All voted in favor of the motion said aye. Non opposed. Motion carried.

#### Item XII:

Review and approve application for Groves Chimney Caps & Awnings. It was noted that the address for this business on the agenda was not correct. And it was corrected. Mr. Hebert was in attendance. The application amount is \$1,138.09 for signage and landscaping. I put advertising on the application and the agenda, and it should have been signage. My apologies. Mr. Vensel called for a motion. A motion was made to approve the application by Mr. Oliver and a second was made by Mr. McAdams. All voted in favor of the motion said aye. Non opposed. Motion carried.

#### Item XIII

Review and approve application for Quality Medical in the amount of \$2,500 for advertising. Mr. Tinsley was in attendance. Mr. Tinsley's business is the oldest business in Groves. It was noted that the business has been in Groves for 30 years. Mr. Tinsley said he wished that more businesses would know about the advertising with Fox 4 and KBMT the key being rotating advertising instead of specific times and it will run anytime during the day or night and will advertise to people all across Jefferson county and orange. It is less expensive and still gets the message out. Mr. Vensel called for a motion and second. A motion was made to approve the application by Mr. McAdams and a Second was made by Mr. Oliver. All voted in favor of the motion said aye. Non opposed. Motion carried.

#### Item XIV

EDC member comments. Ms. Dugas stated she thought about making a brochure for GEDC with pictures of different businesses that the Board has helped. A brochure that could be given out at the water department drive through and the chamber of commerce and different businesses throughout the city. Mr. Vensel stated as soon as the Chamber gets a new director he will ask that the EDC information be put on their website. Ms. Dugas said maybe a facebook page and a video of how the EDC helps businesses. Or handed out to everyone paying a commercial water bill. Things to consider for future endeavors.

Item XV

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.