

City Council met for their monthly City Council meeting and Joint Special Called Cleveland Economic Development meeting on February 15, 2022, in person at 907 E. Houston St., Cleveland, Texas, with Mayor Richard Boyett presiding.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard Boyett, Mayor Pro-Tem James Franklin, Councilmember Carolyn McWaters, Councilmember Delores Terry, Councilmember Marilyn Clay, Councilmember Danny Lee, City Attorney David Olson, Interim City Manager Stacy Williams and City Secretary Angela Smith

EDC MEMBERS PRESENT: Treasurer Michele Wyatt, Boardmember Scott Lambert, Boardmember Patrick Caserez, Boardmember Marilyn Clay and EDC Director Robert Reynolds

EDC MEMBERS ABSENT: Board President Brent McWaters and Vice President Kelly Jenkel-Axton

EMPLOYEES: Jennifer Jeude, Leslie Herrera, Savannah Cunningham, Mary Cohn, Sean Anderson, Ashleigh Broussard-Carter, Darrel Broussard

ATTENDEES: Vanesa Brashier, Eddie Lowery, Jim Carson, Kyle Smith, Alyssa Williams, Kris Williams, Charles Burton, Fred Terrell, Mary Terrell, Joswa Zigal, Kari Duggar, Lance Blackwell, Earnest Carrington III, Earnest Carrington, Dorothy Carrington, Victoria Good, Durlene Davis, James Easley, Mike Mize, Mike Doyle, Sherry Cook, Bernest Mitchell Sr., Amanda Garza, Claudie Ray Scott, Tony Jordan, Rodney Harrison, Lacy Kreger, Gary Laffoon

Mayor Richard Boyett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated there was a city council quorum and then EDC Board member/Treasurer Michele Wyatt opened EDC's meeting at 6:02 pm and stated they had a quorum. Pastor Charlie Burton gave the invocation and Mayor Boyett led the pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags.

Presentation, Discussion and Action (Joint)

1. **Presentation and discussion by BNSF on the grant application process for water/sewer infrastructure at their new logistics center**

BNSF Economic Development Director Lacy Kreger gave council and EDC a presentation on the logistics center. BNSF found out that the EDA grant is no longer available that they were going to use to help build the infrastructure. However they are still going ahead with the infrastructure plans and understand that the city wishes to participate with upsizing the facilities to help out with the growth in that area. The cost for the city's portion is what needs to be approved. It was remarked that we can save money now by partnering with BNSF as we need the utilities. Ms. Kreger did comment that BNSF is still trying for a \$2 million grant to help offset costs. EDC is attending tonight's meeting so that they have the same information and can review financial participation. Ms. Kreger explained that they will start with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between City Council and/or EDC that BNSF will work on and that will come back at a later date to council for approval to cover all parties' participation. City Attorney Olson stated that a simple motion to authorize the use of money is fine as that is a sign of good faith.

Agenda item number 3's motion was done first so it was moved up on the agenda.

3. **Consideration and possible action by City of Cleveland on participation in the BNSF Grant Application process for the water/sewer infrastructure at the new logistics center**

Councilmember Clay made the motion to authorize the expenditure of \$970,000 for engineering and construction of the water treatment plant as well as engineering and construction for wastewater with a second from Councilmember Terry. All members present voted "AYE". Motion carried.

2. **Consideration and possible action by Cleveland Economic Development Corporation on participation in the BNSF Grant Application process for the water/sewer infrastructure at the new logistics center**

EDC Boardmember Michele Wyatt made the motion to authorize the expenditure of \$970,000 for engineering and construction of the water treatment plant as well as engineering and construction for wastewater if City Council needs to utilize EDC for funding with a second from Scott Lambert. All members present voted "AYE". Motion carried.

4. **Adjournment by the Cleveland Economic Development Corporation board members**

EDC Boardmember Michele Wyatt made a motion to adjourn the EDC meeting with a second from EDC Boardmember Scott Lambert. All members present voted "AYE". Motion carried. EDC adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Public Comments

5. **Proclamation in observance of Black History Month – February**

Mayor read aloud the Black History Month proclamation for February 2022.

6. **Public Comments.**

Fred Terrell – Spoke about the Municipal Park construction project and prior City elections.

Jim Carson – provided Leadership of East Texas update.

Victoria Good –provided Chamber update.

Bernest Mitchell – thanked council for Black History Month proclamation and requested a follow-up on previous request about ditches on Vine Street.

Rodney Harrison – Spoke about the council needing to set a positive example for all.

Amanda Garza – Spoke about a speeding concern on Truman St.

Arthur Clay - Spoke about an issue with the process of meeting with the city manager.

7. **Reports and comments from City Council, Mayor or City staff.**

Marilyn Clay - Recognized Black History Month and several black leaders in the community. Thanked everyone for coming out.

Danny Lee - Thanks for coming out. Bring issues to city council and hold council accountable.

Delores Terry – Spoke about Cleveland and City Council needing to come together as one.

Carolyn McWaters - Thank you for coming and voicing opinions.

Consent Agenda

Consideration and possible action on (following):