

2.27.2023 EDC Meeting Minutes

Brent McWaters - President
Marilyn Clay – CC Board Member
Durlene Davis – Board Member
Patrick Casarez – Board Member
Kelly Axton – Vice President

Scott Lambert - Board Member
Robert Reynolds - Director
Terry Blackwell - Secretary
Michelle Wyatt – Treasurer

A quorum was established.

Two members were not present – Kelly Axton. Michelle Wyatt

ATTENDEES: Fred Terrell, Eddy Lowery, Carolyn McWaters

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Meeting was called as a joint meeting as Council was present with a quorum.

Recognition of service plaque was given to Scott Lambert.

Oaths of Office were given to new board members – LaDerrington Baldwin, Niki Coats, and Rachell Hall.

Public Comments were given by Council Member Eddie Lowery, stated he came to challenge the board. The Economic Development Board can change the face of Cleveland. It doesn't need City Council. Challenged the board to put their minds together to work together and make it something you will be proud of.

Reports from Board members – Durlene Davis stated she noticed a building that had a sign out that said closing. Marilyn Clay thanked exiting board members and welcomed new board members and thanked Mr. Lowery for the very encouraging words. Niki Coats – Thanked City Council for choosing him to serve on the board and he had served on the board before. He had spoken to Jack Gauntly, Vice President of McKinney, the golf course would open in the middle of March, but had been told that before. There is another business starting up in town it is called Liberty Buildings. Brent McWaters echoed the thank you to out going members and stated we are very excited with the new chapter with Mr. Baldwin, Mrs. Hall, and Niki Coats. He stated that the thought Councilman Lowery had great words. Mr. Baldwin, thanked council for the opportunity and thanked Councilman Lowery for the good point that we can work together help the city get better and in the right direction. It could help businesses out and our schools. Currently right now we have 11,763 students. We need to look into help accommodate those kids and help the city with this growth. Rachell Hall, thanked council for the appointment and all the former members for all the work they laid as far as the Economic goes for the city. I have two teenagers and we like to drive around and see what business are opening. She stated there were a lot and they were looking forward to more of that and what is coming in the community. She also is happy with what has been repurposed, such as the Texan Theatre which was movies and now is the music and the comedy shows. She has been to a few show and encourages anyone that has not seen it to see it and to help support all the people that are coming into the community wanting to bring businesses, entertainment,

and activities here. Patrick Casarez – Thank you to the new board members for taking the time out to the new board members for taking the time out to do the work that needs to be done. Thank you to City Council for all the hard work that they are involved with let's keep this community growing on the upper end. Let's do the best we can.

Marilyn Clay – We visited the capitol last week, and in reference to what Mr. Baldwin brought up, they too brought up that Cleveland is the fastest growing School District in the state. If there are more students coming then there are more families coming and we need to come together for the entire city for all the people.

Economic Development Director Report stated enjoyed working with all the past board member and council and thanked everyone for their comments. Like Councilman Lowery stated we all have to pull together to do the right thing for our city.

In your packet is updates of things that are going on some of the projects, new businesses. We have a car wash, they employee 12 or 13 people.

Denny's have come to council talking about a replat.

B plastics it is a recycling of plastics and they are trying to hire qualified people to run some of their machines. They want to employee 20 people.

Talked to David Nimitz and Jack gauntly with grand oaks.

M & D Supply/Ace Hardware they opened on February 15th. Cleveland sells have surpassed their other stores in sales.

Coburn supply wants to come into the city and they are looking at buildings.

CBS furniture has his properties up for sale and other business are looking at those sites.

Criss Cross is building all around the Walmart in New Caney they want to be in Cleveland.

Burton Works still has his site.

William Taminga, he has not found anyone to put next to Whataburger yet.

Frank Lynn is looking at a getting with a major builder/

We are all aware of the BSNF project.

Durlene Davis commented on the Frank Lynn and where he was in his process. Robert Reynolds stated he has all his property up for sale. He has major home builders looking at it.

Niki Coats would like to know more about BSNF at next meeting.

BNSF has purchased 1200 acres. It is on 105 West. 1000 in Liberty County and a couple of hundred acres in Montgomery County. This is a logistic center. It is called Houston Cleveland Logistic Center.

They are going to lease buildings. They are talking to a company that is going to employ two hundred people. They are working with the City Council and EDC. 105 West will be one of our new growth areas.

Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Marilyn Clay to approve and second by Patrick Casarez to approve. All items approved.

Discussion items

New Board positions

Durlene Davis nominated Niki Coats to be president of the board with a second from Marilyn Clay. Motion Approved.

Marilyn Clay nominated LaDerrington Baldwin for Vice President with a second from Durlene Davis. Approved.

Marilyn Clay nominated Durlene Davis for Treasurer with a second from LaDerrington Baldwin Approved.

Marilyn Clay nominated Terry Blackwell for Secretary with a second from Durlene Davis. Approved.

Brent McWaters changed seats with Niki Coats as new Board President.

Bank Signatories – to remove Michelle Wyatt, Jennifer Jeude, and Kelly Jenkle Axton and to add appoint Terry Blackwell, Durlene Davis, LaDerrington Baldwin, and Niki Coats to bank accounts.

Façade Grant approval for Ms. Cook. She improved the appearance of the façade of two buildings.

Items 10 and 11 were approved for the façade grant. Motion made by Brent McWaters and seconded by Patrick Casarez. Motion approved.

Councilman Fred Terrell explained you would only get up to 5000 for the façade and up to 2500 for signs.

Marilyn Clay stated that the Façade Grant was not on the web site.

Allies Day was discussed and moved to workshop scheduled for March 20, at 6 pm

Motion made by Marilyn Clay and seconded by LaDerrington Baldwin. Motion passed.

Discussion of Projects

Projects were limited to 3 items

Courtesy Car- Motion was made Marilyn seconded by LaDerrington to spend \$24,000 on a vehicle.

Gateway signs – Discussion on options, no action

Pavilion - Information to be brought to next meeting.

Executive Session at 7:54

Return 8:28