



**Athens Economic Development Corporation**

**Board of Directors**

**Special Board Meeting**

**November 25, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Athens Economic Development Corporation (hereinafter referred to as AEDC) held a Special Board Meeting at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 in the Derek D. Daniels Room of the Athens Partnership Center located at 201 W Corsicana Street, Athens, Texas.

Directors present: John Trent, Donna Meredith, Randy Jones and Danny Tidmore

Staff Present: Joanie Ahlers, Executive Director

Ex-Officio: None

Guest: Deborah Deas, Bill Burton and Michelle Zenor

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 P.M. by Vice-President John Trent for all agenda items. A quorum was present.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None.

**Public Communications**

None.

**Notice of Public Hearing – Cain Center Agreement**

Executive Director Ahlers gave a background for the Cain Center Agreement. This item was approved at the last AEDC board meeting. The board enter into a Performance agreement with the City of Athens to award \$100,000 to the construction of the Cain Center.

The public hearing was opened. There were no comments. The public hearing was closed.

**Notice of Public Hearing – Community Development Grant Program**

The grant guidelines and criteria were presented that were passed at the last AEDC board meeting.

The public hearing was opened.

Bill Burton of 102 Carroll Street, Athens, Texas, spoke on boards he has been a member of. He spoke in favor of the Community Development Grant program. He believes it is a necessary item to enhance the City of Athens.

Deborah Deas of 4246 CR 4607, Athens, Texas, thanked everyone for including non-profits.

With no other comments, the public hearing was closed.

**Notice of Public Hearing – Business Assistance Grant Program**

Executive Director Ahlers explained priority will be given to an area known as the downtown central business district. This area includes the square and two blocks off. The committee decided to include Hwy 175 east or west, Hwy 19, north or south, Hwy 31 east or west and Pinkerton Street.

There are four areas in which this grant can be approved. Façade improvement, sign improvement, property improvement and demolition. The ceiling amount is \$12,500 per grant and there is a mandatory matching funds for projects. The same committee will be reviewing these also.

The public hearing was opened.

Bill Burton spoke in reference to the North Athens area. This program would serve as a blessing.

The public hearing was closed.

**Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned.

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Randy Jones, Secretary

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John Trent, Vice President