

**Athens Economic Development Corporation
Board of Directors
Minutes for February 18, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Athens Economic Development Corporation (hereinafter referred to as AEDC) held a Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 in the Derek D. Daniels Room of the Athens Partnership Center located at 201 W Corsicana Street, Athens, Texas.

Directors present: Will Traxson, John Trent, Carmen Hunt, Randy Jones, Danny Tidmore, Morgan Jones and Cliff Bomer

Staff present: Joanie Ahlers, Executive Director and Valerie Franklin, Office Manager

Ex-Officio: Mayor Monte Montgomery, City Manager Elizabeth Borstad

Guests: Councilmembers Aaron Smith, Robert Gross and Toni Clay. Other Members of the Public: Nathan Herrington, Alejandra Herrington, Elizabeth Roberts, Jackie Hablinski, Julie Rogers, Delaney Worth, Mick Coffman, Rich Flowers, Paula Lowe, Mark Carroll, Deborah Deas, Ed Gatlin, and Michael Hannigan

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by President Will Traxson for all agenda items. A quorum was present.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

Public Communications

None.

Consider discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Minutes from AEDC Board Meeting held January 21, 2020

A motion was made by Cliff Bomer to approve the January board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Danny Tidmore. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider discussion and possible action regarding the approval of January Financials

A motion was made by John Trent to approve the January 2020 Financials. It was seconded by Randy Jones. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider discussion and possible action regarding the acceptance of Audit FY 2019

Paula Lowe from Patillo, Brown and Hill, LLP highlighted FY 2019 Audit for the AEDC. The firm was able to render an unmodified opinion which is a clean opinion the highest opinion that can be rendered.

A motion was made by Randy Jones to accept the FY 2019 Audit. It was seconded by Cliff Bomer. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider discussion and possible action concerning draw request #9 for Biomerics in the amount of \$50,283.17

Financial Director Mandie Quigg stated draw request #9 was a standard request. Director John Trent asked if there was any idea what percentage of completion Biomerics were at. Finance Director Quigg stated prior to this job around 70 percent but they have stated they intend to use the full million dollars.

A motion was made by Randy Jones to approve draw request #9 for Biomerics in the amount of \$50,283.17. It was seconded by Carmen Hunt. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider discussion and possible action concerning a Deed of Right of Way to the City of Athens for the benefit of Thrive Church on Old Tyler Highway

Executive Director Joanie Ahlers explained they were issues from our January board meeting with the attachments, specifically the lack of an official survey. In the process of the investigation, Old Tyler Hwy did not have any street right-of-way. Best path forward is to provide a 45-foot right of way conveyance. If the City is widening the road for public safety issues, Oncor would come out and pay to relocate the poles according to the City's Franchise agreement. Thrive Church paid for the original survey and the City will be paying for the changes necessary to document the 45-foot right of way.

City Manager Elizabeth Borstad stated the way we came up with the 45 feet is our typical commercial street right of way would be 60 feet so, 30 on each side center line knowing that ONCOR would need 15 feet for their line improvements. This is planning for the future if and when the road is widened.

Director Will Traxson asked if Oncor was putting new poles in all the way along the EDC property. Oncor representative stated only the poles coming in off of Hwy 31 to the place where the service crosses Old Tyler Highway will be replaced in the current plan. He said the other poles will be replaced eventually as they are old and out of compliance. There was further discussion.

Cliff Bomer made a motion to grant a Deed of Right of Way to the City of Athens for the benefit of Thrive Church on Old Tyler Highway. It was seconded by Morgan Jones. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider discussion and possible action concerning the approval of a contract for media services with Michael Hannigan as media personnel

Executive Director Joanie Ahlers explained Mr. Hannigan will be assisting with Media services. He will do press releases, social media and as web master. An hourly rate has been set at \$50 per hour. This would be reevaluated after six months.

A motion was made by Randy Jones to approve the contract with Michael Hannigan as media personnel. It was seconded by John Trent. The motion carried unanimously.

Small Business Development presentation by Michael Ellsberry, Director of Small Business Center

Michael Ellsberry explained he would like to work together with the AEDC to better serve our city. He listed services they can provide for the AEDC and small business.

Consider discussion and possible action regarding mortgage payoff of Athens Partnership Center

Executive Director Joanie Ahlers spoke about the cost savings to the organization to payoff the mortgage. The current interest rate at 3.14%. There was further discussion. No further action was taken.

Consider discussion and possible action regarding Lease Renewal at 1501 Airport Road

President Will Traxson spoke about Mr. Richardson wants to renew his pasture lease. He had a four-year lease and did fence and dirt work in-kind valued at \$10,000. He is asking to renew to another four years at \$2,500.00 per year with a six month notice to vacate.

A motion was made by Danny Tidmore to approve the four-year lease renewal at 1501 Airport Road with Mr. R.B. Richardson for \$2,500.00 per year. It was seconded by Carmen Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

AEDC Board of Director's request for future agenda items

City Manager Elizabeth Borstad asked if an item could be added to the agenda concerning a partnership between the City of Athens and AEDC to improve our mapping within the city limits.

Adjourn

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Carmen Hunt, Secretary

Will Traxson, President