

**Athens Economic Development Corporation
Board of Directors Special Meeting
Minutes for May 10, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Athens Economic Development Corporation (hereafter referred to as AEDC) held a Special Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, May 10, 2019 in the Derek D. Daniels Room of the Athens Partnership Center located at 201 W. Corsicana Street, Athens, Texas.

Directors present: Jeaneane Lilly, John Trent, Carmen Hunt, Cliff Barrett, Will Traxson, Cliff Bomer and Randy Jones

Staff present: Lisa Denton

City Council present: Mayor Monte Montgomery, Councilman Ed McCain, Councilwoman Toni Clay, Councilman Aaron Smith

Guests Present: Elizabeth Borstad, Bonnie Hambrick, Jess Laird and Michael Hannigan

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Jeaneane Lilly for all agenda items. A quorum was present.

Enter into joint meeting with City of Athens City Council

President announced that the AEDC Board would be entering into a joint meeting with Council.

Discuss AEDC By-Laws

The Mayor shared, in response to this item that he would like to see the section relating to residency for AEDC Board Members reviewed and possibly changed to require directors to reside within the city limits. John Trent noted that he would be against that, as it could make it difficult to recruit qualified candidates to serve on the board. He felt the By-Laws should match the statute in allowing the 10 mile rule for cities with a population less than 20,000. He also added that, in his opinion, AEDC is not out of compliance with its By-Laws regarding Mr. Barrett's move outside the city limits. Will Traxson stated that possibly adding language that requires the candidate to pay taxes to the city in some form, such as ad valorem. He also mentioned the importance of having Ex-Officio members in attendance at meetings, especially executive session, as it seems many issues revolve around communications. Lastly, he shared his concerns over some council opinions on certain AEDC programs being cut and addressed why he felt it was important for AEDC to continue its efforts in those areas, specifically the façade improvement program, and how they relate to the duties of the Board, as listed in the By-Laws. Mrs. Lilly noted that she would like to see Section VI regarding contracts reviewed. Mrs. Borstad suggested forming a group, consisting of a couple AEDC directors and City Council members along with staff, to review and recommend possible changes.

Discuss Comprehensive Master Plan Update and long term City of Athens future development

Mayor Montgomery updated both groups on a meeting, which was the result of a response received to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Comprehensive Master Plan for the city of Athens. This meeting was attended by the Mayor, city manager Elizabeth Borstad, AEDC President Jeaneane Lilly and Vice-President John Trent, along with representatives from Norris

Design, KSA and Catalyst, which were the companies involved in the RFQ. The plan would likely be a 10-15 year plan, with an estimated completion time of 15-18 months. Mrs. Borstad noted that the plan would be unique to Athens, rather than a cookie cutter plan used for any number of cities. Both AEDC representatives said they were impressed with the companies involved and liked what they had to share during the meeting. Both groups agreed they would like to move forward with some type of plan. Mrs. Borstad said she had not been in too big a hurry as it would need to be budgeted in the next fiscal year budget.

Executive Session

At 10:55 A.M., President Lilly announced that the board would enter into Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of the TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE Chapter 551, in accordance with the authority contained in the following:

- A. Section 551.074 – Deliberation on Personnel Matters:
AEDC Executive Director Employment Agreement

The board reconvened into Open Session at 11:58 A.M.

Consider discussion and possible action on items discussed under Agenda Item 5

No action

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 A.M.

Carmen Hunt, Secretary

Jeaneane Lilly, President