

## MINUTES

CITY OF GROVES EDC

FEBRUARY 13, 2023 AT 7:30/ P.M.

Meeting called to order by President Rob Vensel

In Attendance:

Rob Vensel, Rhonda Dugas, Paul Oliver, Mark McAdams

Sidney Badon, Lance Billeaud, Brandon Monk.

Welcome to Everyone in attendance by President Vensel.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the EDC meeting of January 17, 2023 Economic Development Corporation. Motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting made by Mr. Mark McAdams and seconded by Mr. Sidney Badon. No questions were asked about the minutes. All in favor voted aye, no one voted no. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: None

Business updates from the EDC President: None

Sales Tax Report and Budget Report was attached to the Agenda email. This report shows what has been done for this fiscal year. Lamar Ozley reported our sales tax was \$304,825, a record month. Last year the sales tax was \$291,169.22. Lamar stated that \$101,600 would be the funds the EDC will receive. The Budget Report breaks down the expenditures for this fiscal year. Revenue in, expenditures out, expected expenditures, beginning fund balance, budgeted transfer for administration expense, transfer to debt service for the Fire Department should be done in March.

Mr. Vensel asked what the total expenditures for the bond grant EDC expenditure would be.

Budgeted transfer to the city for the administration expenses is \$125,000, and the Fire Department bond expense is \$579,750. Ms. Dugas stated that this information is included in the budget report all board members received in their agenda email. Beginning balance is almost \$1.5 Million and as of this night and budgeted expenditures out and revenue in the fund balance is \$1.1 Million. Ms. Dugas pointed out that Mr. Ozley has listed on this report all the grant reimbursement payouts for the different companies that had an application approved. All for the fiscal year so far. Mr. Ozley made this at the request of Ms. Dugas.

EDC Business:

Item VII:

Changes in Advertising incentives discussed during the January 17, 2023 meeting. Motion made by Mr. McAdams to approve the Advertising incentive that was discussed on January 17, for t-shirts coffee mugs etc. to state Groves, Texas on these items. Seconded by Mr. Paul Oliver. Motion voted on unanimously, none opposed. Motion passed.

Item VIII:

Discuss and approve changes for the EDC guidelines/incentives. Ms. Dugas stated there were some revisions and corrections to be made. Total a company could receive is \$15,000 instead of \$12,500. Mr. Vensel pointed out that outside signage is a cap of \$2,500 for the incentive guidelines, correction was not made in time for the meeting. It is listed on the grant program page. Mr. Vensel: outdoor furniture is to be included in improvements; it is included in exterior remodeling assistance. It is not a separate category and will be included in the cap of \$5,000. Mr. Badon asked to make sure we would be changing to reflect what was agreed and voted on. Mr. Vensel called for a motion and second. Mr. Badon made a motion to accept the new incentives and guidelines for the EDC of Groves,

Texas. Seconded by Mr. Paul Oliver. The motion was voted unanimously, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### Item IX:

To include or not include sales tax in the grant money refund. Mr. Vensel called for a motion and a second. Motion made by Mr. Sidney Badon, seconded made by Mr. Paul Oliver. Ms. Dugas stated this came up while looking through receipts and the board had never discussed it or voted on it. Discussion was favorable to remove the sales tax as it would be the EDC paying the sales tax for a company. The motion was voted unanimously, none opposed. Motion carried. Sales tax will be removed from the total amount of invoices submitted for application.

#### Item X:

Removal of permit application fees from EDC grant reimbursements. Motion made by Mr. Mark McAdams seconded by Mr. Sidney Badon. Ms. Dugas stated that again looking through invoices and noticing this was included in the total amount submitted to the EDC for reimbursement, in questioning should this be included in the total amount or exclude? Mr. Oliver asked if this would be just on new business or new structures or on all permits including existing structures. President Vensel recapped that we are voting on removing of permit fees paid to Groves, Texas on all structures. The motion was voted unanimously, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### Item XI:

Mr. Vensel asked Ms. Dugas to explain this item. Ms. Dugas stated while looking at invoices for much larger projects it would not be feasible to ask for the project to be paid in full before applying for a grant refund. These projects are in the multiple millions of dollars range. As we accommodated FG Groves, LLC, Mr. Fox sent canceled checks of which the portion was quite a large amount that would definitely cover the amount of the grant refund, which is \$15,000, FG Groves, LLC would receive. A company

would need to pay up to \$15,000, Ms. Dugas asked for a motion and second and Mr. Vensel agreed. Mr. McAdams asked for a recommendation started to make a motion and asked Ms. Dugas to make the motion the motion was made to discuss large building projects payment portion for receiving EDC grant refunds, payment portion must cover EDC grant fund disbursement or full and total amount of project EDC grant funds total being \$15,000. Second Mr. Paul Oliver. No other questions., The motion was voted unanimously, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### Item XII:

Discussion and approval for a yearly review of EDC applications and incentive/guidelines during the month of October. Motion made by Mr. McAdams second by Mr. Sidney Badon. Mr. Vensel pointed out that October is the month the new budget goes into effect. Ms. Dugas pointed out that the board can vote to make changes quarterly or every six months or decide on another time. However, October is budget time and that would be a good time to make any changes necessary. The motion was voted unanimously, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### Item XIII:

Discussion on advertising application for electronic billboard in front of the Groves Activity building. Mr. Vensel pointed out this is just a discussion item. This is to inform the Board of the requirements on the application. The application was included in the agenda email. Mr. Sidney Badon has suggested the EDC advertise to Groves that EDC funds are available. Ms. Sadie Lupo at the Activities Building processes the applications. Ms. Dugas suggested it could say, EDC helps business applications available contact city clerk and the phone number. Mr. Sidney Badon said businesses he spoke with had never applied for funds because they didn't know these funds are available. Suggestion was made to bring it up at the next meeting to take a vote. Noted to be put on the next agenda.

#### Item XIV:

Review and approve Pizza Artista application for \$5,000. Mr. Vensel state he and Ms. Dugas reviewed. Mr. Vensel called for a motion and a second. Motion made by Mr. Mark McAdams seconded by Mr. Sidney Badon. No questions. The motion was voted unanimously, none opposed. Motion carried.

Item XV:

Review and approve LaComb Health and Wellness application for \$5,000. Mr. Vensel asked for a motion and second. Motion made by Mr. Mark McAdams second by Ms. Rhonda Dugas seconded. Mr. Badon asked where the improvements were made and Mr. Vensel stated it was coming from the side street entrance not the 39<sup>th</sup> street entrance. The parking area. The motion was voted unanimously, none opposed. Motion carried.

Item XVI:

Review and approve FG Groves, LLC application in the amount of \$15,000. The agenda stated \$12,500 but this amount was adjusted/amended to reflect the full amount of grant money allowed. Mr. Vensel sated that it was suggested this company would be picking the tax incentive but on further discussion chose the grant money reimbursement. Mr. Sosa had worked with this company and attorney to get the tax incentive and decided on the \$15,000 grant money instead. Mr. Paul Oliver asked if Mr. Fox is the developer. Yes. Mr. Fox stated he is working on more development in the city of Groves. Motion made by Mr. Sidney Badon and second by Mr. Mark McAdams. The motion was voted unanimously, none opposed. Motion carried.

EDC Member Comments:

Mr. Sidney Badon suggested that we have the EDC meeting on another day other than city council Monday and of course it would be once a month.

Mr. Paul Oliver said it works better that this is on the city council day. It was not suggested we put this on the agenda for a vote for a separate day other than city council day.

XVIII:

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.