

**MINUTES
GROVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
GROVES CITY HALL
AUGUST 26, 2024**

IN ATTENDANCE:

**Rhonda Dugas, Mark McAdams, Pete Konidis, Sidney Badon, Letha Knaus,
Paul Oliver, Brandon Monk, Kevin Carruth.**

Absent: None

President Rhonda Dugas called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

Prayer was given by Derek Theall

Pledge was given by Derek Theall

Roll Call was taken by Derek Theall

President Dugas welcomed all guest and news media.

President Dugas called for Citizen Comments. None.

ITEM 7:

**President Rhonda Dugas called for a motion and a second to approve
The minutes of the July 29, 2024, Groves Economic Development
Corporation. Take a record vote. A motion was made by Mark McAdams
And a second by Letha Knaus. A record vote was taken. Motion
Passed. All in favor, none opposed. Ms. Dugas also asked if there were
Any questions or discussion. None.**

ITEM 8:

**Rhonda Dugas called for a discussion on new business, potential business
and on existing structures. Mr. Carruth stated the old Masonic Lodge would
be housing Goodwill and there has been work done on the building. Valvoline
will be next to Starbucks plans were submitted a year ago the plans expired
and were renewed. Rhonda Dugas asked Mr. Carruth if he had been able
to contact Mr. Smith about the high grass around the hospital and he had not
contacted him. The corner lot that had high bushes has been taken care of.
Mr. Carruth will check the hospital property again. The owner of the dilapidated
building across from Market Basked has been given a citation a couple of
months age and the prosecutor's office has the information.**

ITEM 9:

Budget Report, Sales Tax Report. Mr. Ozley handed out the reports before the meeting started. We had another good month. The past sales tax was \$287 odd thousand dollars which was greater than it was last year. We are still looking At 8% higher than last year and is very strong and positive. Six months in a Row we have had greater than last year. We are projecting sales tax at \$3.25 Million for the fiscal year. For the Budget report I would point out that The expense of \$500 for Mr. Monk as the EDC attorney is being taken out. Also the reimbursements from last month have been taken out. Rhonda Dugas Asked if Mr. Monks fee would be taken out at the first of every month. Mr. Ozley stated it would be taken out at the same time as his city fee. Rhonda Dugas Called for questions or discussion. There were none.

ITEM 10:

Transfer of \$225,000 from EDC to general fund. Rhonda Dugas called for a Motion and a second. Mark McAdams made the motion and Sidney Baden made the second. Rhonda Dugas said this money is for the administration cost for the EDC and to help with the health insurance cost for the employees. It is the transfer into the general fund. Mark McAdams asked how often this is done and Mr. Ozley stated once a year and if approved this will be for next Years fund. It was in the budget the city has already passed. Rhonda Dugas Asked if there was anything else. Rhonda Dugas called for a record vote. Motion passed. None opposed.

ITEM 11:

Classic Finds application. Rhonda Dugas called for a motion and a Second. Letha Knaus made the motion and a second was made by Sidney Baden. Rhonda Dugas introduced Mom in law and she commented the Small businesses in Groves help each other and support each other. Rhonda Dugas called for questions and discussion. There was none. A record vote was taken and the motion passed. None opposed.

ITEM 12:

TWFG Villa Insurance application. Rhonda Dugas called for a motion And a second. A motion was made by Letha Knaus and a second was made by Sidney Badon. Rhonda Dugas called for any questions and discussion. No. A record vote was taken. Motion passed. None opposed.

ITEM 13:

Member Comments. Rhonda Dugas commented that she had gone into Some of the businesses where the strip mall is located by Pizza Artista and Had not been able to speak to the owner. Rhonda Dugas commented that she Had stopped at Milagros several times but no one was there. Letha Knaus said They are getting closer to opening. Chamber is working on refurbishing the Downtown area with planters and benches that are metal and wood but they

Are expensive. Rhonda Dugas asked when will the next chamber breakfast Be held? Letha Knaus stated the next one will be September 12, 2024. Sidney Badon asked about lighting for the downtown area. Mr. Carruth has Been working on information about the lights. Mr. Carruth is working with Entergy. Sidney Badon suggests putting in another wheelchair accessible Parking space.

ITEM 14:

Rhonda Dugas adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.