

MINUTES
WATAUGA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SPECIAL MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021
VIDEOCONFERENCE
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Watauga Economic Development Corporation held by videoconference was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

President Miner announced the meeting is a Joint Meeting between the City Council and WEDC and that the live stream of the video will appear on the City Council Meeting and upon conclusion of the meeting the video will be available on both meetings.

ROLL CALL

President, Art Miner
Secretary, Place 2, Amirali Fazalbai (Absent without Notice)
Director, Place 3, Jan Hill
Director, Place 4, Vacant
Director, Place 5, Mike Alexander
Vice-President, Place 6, Cheneya Cruze
Director, Place 7, Lissa Seija (Oath Not Taken)

and

Andrea Gardner, City Manager/ City Secretary
George Hyde, City Attorney
Bradley Fraley, Chief Information Officer/ PIO

President Miner stated a quorum of the Board was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Miner called for Public Comment. Request to Speak forms were not received and no individuals desiring to provide public comment were present on the videoconference.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

President Miner called for Public Testimony. Request to Speak forms were not received and no individuals desiring to provide public testimony were present on the videoconference.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss and consider action to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service for economic development training for leaders, elected and appointed officials

Andrea Gardner provided an overview of the item to the Board and stated that City staff recommended approval.

Upon conclusion of Council discussion and action, the President called for discussion by the Board. Hearing none, the President called for a motion.

Vice-President Cruze made a motion to authorize the expenditure of the WEDC and the contract to be executed for the training.

Director Hill seconded the motion.

Mayor Miner called for the Board to vote by show of right hand to approve the motion as presented.

Place 3, Jan Hill	Yes
Place 5, Mike Alexander	Yes
Place 6, Vice President, Cheneya Cruze	Yes

Motion carried 3-0-0-1.

Ayes: Hill, Alexander, Cruze

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Fazalbhai

2. Consider action to approve a WEDC expenditure to contract with Lift Creations for the development and maintenance of the Watauga EDC website

Andrea Gardner provided an overview of the item to the Board and stated that the WEDC Board directed her to move forward with a contract between the WEDC and Lift Creations during the December 2020 WEDC Meeting and City staff recommended approval.

Upon conclusion of discussion and action by the Council, President Miner called for questions from the Board.

Hearing none, the President called for a motion.

Vice-President Cruze made a motion to approve the contract with Lift Creations for the development and maintenance of the WEDC website. Motion seconded by Director Alexander.

President Miner called for the Board to vote by show of right hand.

Place 3, Jan Hill	Yes
Place 5, Mike Alexander	Yes
Place 6, Vice President, Cheneya Cruze	Yes

Motion carried 3-0-0-1.

Ayes: Hill, Alexander, Cruze

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Fazalbhai

The members of the WEDC Board remained on the videoconference while the Watauga City Council discussed and acted on City Council Agenda Item 3. The members of the WEDC Board didn't participate or take action on Council Agenda Item 3.

EXECUTIVE SESSION / MEETING

President Miner recessed the Special Council meeting at 6:42 p.m. after announcing to viewers that the WEDC Board Members would be participating in a Joint Executive Session with the City Council for Executive Session Items 1 and 2 only as appears on the WEDC Agenda. The WEDC Board would then return to Open Session to conclude the WEDC Special Meeting.

The Watauga Economic Development Corporation Board will recess its open meeting and reconvene into executive session to discuss the following items pursuant to the below referenced section(s) of the Texas Government Code:

1. § 551.071 and § 551.087 Deliberate upon and consult with the City Attorney on economic development negotiations for Smiley Transportation.
2. § 551.071 to deliberate upon and consult with the City Attorney regarding harassment protections afforded to those serving the Board.

RECONVENE

President Miner reconvened the Special Board meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Joining the President and Board in open session were the Executive Director and Board Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT

President Miner adjourned the videoconference at 8:11 p.m.

APPROVED:

this 19th day of JAN , 2021

SIGNED:

this 27th day of JAN , 2021

APPROVED:

Arthur L. Miner /s/
Arthur L. Miner, President

ATTEST


Amirali (A.J.) Fazalbhai /s/
Amirali (A.J.) Fazalbhai, Secretary

NOTE: Original Audio and Video Recording of this meeting is preserved and maintained by the City Secretary's Office