MINUTES
WATAUGA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING BY VIDEOCONFERENCE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

President Miner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Place 1, Arthur L. Miner, President
Place 2, Amirali Fazalbhai, Secretary
Place 3, Jan Hill, Director
Place 4, Melissa Minucci, Director
Place 5, Mike Alexander, Director
Place 6, Cheneya Cruze, Vice-President (Absent without notice)
Place 7, Lissa Sieja, Director

City Staff Present:

Andrea Gardner, Executive Director
Deby Woodard, Assistant Finance Director
George Hyde, Board Attorney
Lovie Downey, Council Liaison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Miner offered a friendly reminder to members to check city emails on a regular basis and to respond to meeting requests.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

1. Monthly Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2020

Ms. Woodard presented the report to the board that included updates regarding the sales tax, splash pad and the branding signs. There were no questions or comments provided by the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was provided or submitted.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

No public testimony was provided or submitted.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Discuss and consider action to approve the meeting minutes for the WEDC Regular Meeting held January 19, 2021

Director Hill made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Secretary

Fazalbhai seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, President Miner called for the Board to vote by a show of right hand. Motion carried 5-0-1-0.

Ayes: Hill, Alexander, Fazalbhai, Sieja, Minucci
Nays: None
Absent: Cruze
Abstain: None

2. **Discuss and provide direction on a economic development business promotion program (sign advertising)**

Ms. Gardner provided information to the board that included updates on the Branding Signs project and Digital Poster Sign project and stated that both are awaiting electrical connection. Ms. Gardner went into further detail on the type of feedback needed from the board regarding the business promotion program involving the branding signs.

The consensus of the board was to have Ms. Gardner gather information on the cost, electrical use, and how many ad spots are available, along with recommended prices to be presented during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Secretary Fazalbahi suggested discounts for first time users and a free random drawing to provide advertising for those in the Watauga business registry program.

Director Hill stated that the vendor's price is too high and recommended a shorter contract be provided for this service.

3. **Discuss and consider action to authorize the President, the Executive Director and the General Counsel of the WEDC to execute a Mutual Confidentiality Agreement with Smiley Transportation**

Director Minucci inquired regarding the building facility in which Ms. Gardner addressed.

Director Hill made a motion to approve the item as presented. Secretary Fazalbhai seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, President Miner called for the Board to vote by a show of right hand. Motion carried 4-0-1-1.

Ayes: Hill, Fazalbhai, Sieja, Minucci
Nays: None
Absent: Cruze
Abstain: Alexander

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Miner recessed the regular meeting at 6:33 p.m., to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Deliberate upon, seek legal advice from General Counsel and direct the Executive Director and General Counsel on economic development negotiations regarding the property located at 6200 Watauga Rd, pursuant to Sections 551.071 and 551.087 of the Texas Local Government Code

RECONVENE

President Miner reconvened into regular session at 6:54 p.m.

Director Minucci made a motion to postpone the item until notification of grant status is known. Director Hill seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, President Miner called for the Board to vote by a show of right hand. Motion carried 4-0-1-1.

Ms. Gardner stated for the record that Secretary Fazalbhai had completed and filed the appropriate conflict of interest documents to the City Secretary's Office.

Ayes: Hill, Alexander, Sieja, Minucci
Nays: None
Absent: Cruze
Abstain: Fazalbhai

ADJOURNMENT

President Miner adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

APPROVED: this 16 day of March, 2021

SIGNED: this 16 day of March, 2021

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

ATTEST:
J. Hill /s/
Jan Hill, Secretary

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