

The Cleveland Economic Development Corporation met in person and virtually using Zoom due to COVID-19 social precautions on January 25, 2021, for their monthly meeting with Board President Fred Terrell presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board President Fred Terrell, EDC Vice President Marilyn Clay, Boardmember Carolyn McWaters, Boardmember Patrick Caserez, Boardmember Robert Lacy (sworn in at this meeting) and City Secretary Angela Smith

ABSENT: Boardmember Kelly Jenkel-Axton and Boardmember Michele Wyatt

EMPLOYEES: Bobby Pennington, Robert Reynolds, Jennifer Jeude, Savannah Cunningham, Leslie Herrera

ATTENDEES: Jim Carson

EDC Board President Fred Terrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and stated there is a quorum.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS

1. **Invocation, Pledge and Roll Call**

EDC Director Robert Reynolds gave the invocation. Boardmember Marilyn Clay led the pledge to the Texas flag and Boardmember Patrick Caserez led the pledge to the U.S. flag.

2. **Oath of Office ceremony for board members reappointed by Council for new term and new board member appointed by Council**

City Secretary Angela Smith swore in Board President Terrell and new Boardmember Robert Lacy.

3. **Public Comments**

Jim Carson – gave a Chamber update

No additional comments were provided or received during the live event or via email to the City Secretary as stated on the agenda.

REPORTS

4. **Reports and comments from Directors and staff**

City Manager Bobby Pennington gave a status update on the Downtown Phase 1 project. Phase II was awarded on Friday, which will be \$90K EDC match and it is around a \$500K project. Trashcans and lighting have been received in downtown as part of Phase 1. We have three (3) trashcans on the business side at the intersections of Crockett and Boothe. The trashcans are from Texas Correctional Institute at \$500 each.

Boardmember Clay welcomed new Boardmember Robert Lacy saying he is a great asset to the board. Boardmember Clay also mentioned that the fire station committee toured a few fire stations as part of the city project.

New Boardmember Lacey stated that he is just taking it all in and there are a lot of exciting things happening.

5. **Summary of monthly business prospect report and EDC project updates by EDC Director Robert Reynolds**

EDC Director Reynolds gave the monthly business report and EDC project updates. T-Mobile chose not to move into new location by Fred Loya. Mr. Reynolds reviewed the project items.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. **Approve minutes from the December 14, 2020 business meeting**

Boardmember Caserez made a motion to approve the minutes as is with a second from Boardmember Clay. All members present voted 'AYE'. Motion passes.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

7. **Consideration and possible action on approval of monthly financial statements**

City staff member, Sr. Accountant Leslie Herrera, gave the presentation of the financial statements. She reported that the auditors are currently working on a draft audit and that will be presented at the February Monthly Council meeting.

8. **Consideration and possible action on approval of monthly bill payments**

Check numbers 2485, 2487 were combined to become check number 2489, check number 2486 had already gone out. This is due to the possible fraud that was discovered. City Manager Pennington stated that 75% of Burgerworks project has been paid.

Boardmember Clay approved agenda items 7 & 8 with a second by Boardmember Caserez. All members present voted "AYE". Motion carried.

9. **Consideration and action to appoint officers of the EDC board for calendar year 2021**

Boardmember Clay motioned to leave the reappoint the existing 2021 board members, with a second from Boardmember McWaters. All members present voted 'AYE'. Motion passes.

10. **Consideration and possible action on a resolution of the Cleveland Economic Development Corporation designating persons authorized to sign checks and make withdrawals from the Cleveland Economic Development Corporation Bank Accounts and revoking all prior resolutions authorizing personnel (if officer changes occur)**

Not needed.

11. **Consideration and possible action on changing the date for Allies Day due to COVID-19**

EDC Director Reynolds requested this item on the agenda, as it is to determine if the meeting should occur now or later in the year due to COVID-19. Board President Terrell agreed to it being moved to a later date. Boardmember Clay suggested leaving the date open and paying attention COVID-19 issues. City Manager Pennington suggested that July is a good month. No action taken by the board.

12. **Consideration and possible action on going out for Request for Bid for landscaping in the downtown area along N. Travis**

This can be discussed in workshop as the flower beds were not done in Phase 1. Suggestions about plants and landscaping occurred. We need to look for landscaping / lawn services to understand the needs and maintenance. Also, want participation from local businesses. Item tabled for a future workshop on landscaping.

13. **Discussion on downtown improvement**

This was discussed under agenda item number 12.

14. **Consideration and possible action on attendance at the Houston Build Expo, June 9-10, 2021, NRG Center, Houston, TX**

EDC Director Reynolds spoke about the Houston Building Expo and that he is planning to attend. Board President Terrell asked if EDC needed to have a booth at the event and it was determined, that it is not a good option for EDC. Contact Robert Reynolds if you want to attend. No formal action was taken.

15. **Consideration and possible action on selecting a workshop date for reviewing the Industrial Park Survey**

Boardmember Clay made a motion to hold an EDC Workshop on February 22nd at 3:00 pm at the Monthly EDC meeting with a second from Boardmember Caserez. All members present voted 'AYE'. Motion passes.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

16. **Closed Executive Session**

- a. Texas Government Code Sec. 551.072, Deliberations about the sale, purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.
- b. Texas Local Government Code 551.087, Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations – to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations.
 - i. Project Blue, Project Bag and Project Buffet

EDC left for executive session at 7:18 p.m. and returned at 7:56 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

17. **Take action as needed on additional items from Executive Session**

No action taken.