

Gun Barrel City
Economic Development Corporation
1720 W. Main Street
Gun Barrel City, Texas 75156
Tuesday, August 10, 2021

5:00pm
Council Chambers
1716 W. Main Street
Gun Barrel City, Texas 75156

Minutes

1. Call to order/Establishment of Quorum at 5:00pm

Present: Joe Lawrence

Diane Johannes

Brandi Collard Simpson

Ron Wyrick

Keith Bond

Brian Crull

Also Present: Mayor David Skains, Rob Rea, Rita Evans and her daughter

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by President Joe Lawrence.

3. Citizen's Comments – Limited to three minutes.

Citizen and business owner Rob Rea requested to speak. He expressed his displeasure at the organization of the EDC with Board Members reporting to the Executive Director. He wishes that the 2 suspended Board Members would be re-instated until an investigation is completed. He also disagrees with the structure of the Pier 334 Agreement and would suggest that we consider taking a percentage of gross sales instead of net sales, or sell the property to the developer.

4. Adoption of Minutes from July 13, 2021 Meeting and July 27, 2021 Joint Executive Session:

Moved by Diane Johannes and seconded by Brandi Collard Simpson. Motion passed.

5. Adoption of Financials for June 2021: Moved by Brandi Collard Simpson and seconded by Brian

Crull. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report – Mayor Skains stated that City Council met last week and agreed to put Robin Sykora and himself over the EDC while we look to hire a new Executive Director. He said he had spoken to the developer for Pier 334 and they are still very excited to continue with the project. The City is hiring a consultant with HDL Companies to serve as an Interim Director to assist with current projects as needed. The City is also looking for a recruiter to hire a new Executive Director which is a process that could take up to 4 months. Mayor Skains stated he is happy to report that we continue to see sales tax increases as much as 15% annually.

7. Discuss/Take Action to approve a sponsorship at TEDC (\$2500): Ron Wyrick moved to Table. There was discussion about the deadline and the fact that the event is coming up in October and there are limited sponsorships available. Mayor Skains and Diane Johannes suggested we have a motion instead of Tabling and go ahead and vote. Ron Wyrick moved to approve a \$2500 TEDC Sponsorship and Diane Johannes seconded. All voted no. Motion failed.
8. Discuss/Take Action to approve a sponsorship for Rotary "One Hot Havana Night" (\$1500): Moved by Brandi Collard Simpson and seconded by Keith Bond. Ron Wyrick pointed out that the event does not take place here in Gun Barrel City and he would rather support an event here. Motion failed 4 to 2 with Brandi Collard Simpson and Brian Crull voting yes.
9. Discuss/Take Action to adopt a Budget Amendments for the 2020-21 FY: Diane Johannes moved to Discuss/Take Action and Keith Bond seconded. Mayor Skains stated that the Board voted back in March 2021 to have the admin work 40 hours until the hours run out. He said according to Texas law and our Personnel Policy the admin should be considered a full-time employee starting back in March and should include adding TMRS, pay for City Holidays and accrual of vacation time. Joe Lawrence asked that this item be placed on the next EDC Agenda. Brandi Collard Simpson moved to Table this Budget Amendment until we could get better clarification from our accountant. Ron Wyrick seconded. Motion to Table passed.
10. Discuss/Take Action to approve a Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22:

Public Comments: Rob Rea requested to speak. He expressed concerns about the Budget line item Pier 334 and the financial structure of the Performance Agreement. Mr. Rea stated that it would be better to sell the property to YNS and set up payments to the EDC at a low interest rate. He feels that a safer investment would be for us to receive a percentage of gross profit instead of net profit.

Brandi Collard Simpson moved to Table and Ron Wyrick seconded. Mayor Skains suggested having the City Treasurer review our budget documents as well. Diane Johannes asked if we could have a workshop so that all Board Members can have a good understanding of the EDC Budget. All agreed this would be best. Ron Wyrick seconded. Motion to Table passed.

11. Discuss/Take Action to approve a change of date for monthly GBC EDC Meetings. Keith Bond moved that we change the day of our monthly meeting to the first Thursday of each month. Brian Crull seconded. Mayor Skains explained that with the City Council meeting schedule and the EDC meeting schedule, there is only 3.5 days for the EDC to get everything to the City Council before their deadline. Moving the meeting allows more time for the EDC to prepare. Motion passed 5 to 1 with Ron Wyrick voting no.
12. Adjourned at 5:40pm.

Prepared by Robin Sykora, Interim Director

Attest by Brandi Collard Simpson, Secretary/Treasurer
