

MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 2020

BROOKS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Chairman Jack Harrell called the meeting to order. Board members Derren Yearby, Marie Horne, Andy Swann, and Stephanie Mata attended, along with Engineer Ben DeVane, Attorney Luke Mitchell and Director Tiffany Holmes.

Minutes and Financials

The upkeep and maintenance of the Industrial Park was discussed. Engineer Ben DeVane provided report. Anthony Scale Company received the award contract, subject to fulfilling the items required in the bid packet. Stephanie Mata motioned to approve the award contract to Anthony Scale Co; seconded by Marie Horne; unanimously approved. Engineer Ben DeVane will get contract documents prepared.

Copies of the minutes of the monthly meeting held July 13th were reviewed. Marie Horne motioned to strike sentences four and five regarding Marie Horne's commitment with the City of Quitman from the minutes. Marie Horne motioned to approve the minutes, subject to correction; Stephanie Mata seconded; unanimously approved.

The financial reports for July 2020 were provided to the board for review and approval along with the checking account balances. Andy Swann motioned to accept the financial reports as provided; seconded by Stephanie Mata; unanimously accepted.

Old Business

Chairman Jack Harrell discussed the community grants and the desire for district members to make presentations to the local city councils in order to encourage cities within Brooks County to participate. Marie Horne discussed her desire for signage, beautification, etc. Derren Yearby discussed the Barney area; the produce stand/ shelter. Tiffany Holmes recommended that a unified message to be presented at cities with cost parameters defined.

Regarding downtown development, Derren Yearby discussed Seven Sisters Restaurant closing due to financial hardship brought on by the pandemic and how to help small businesses. Chairman Jack Harrell discussed the skyline lighting and that there has been some difficulty in developing a clamp that can be uniformly attached to the building structures.

New Business

Project Samsung project update provided. Derren Yearby asked questions regarding the benefits and risks associated with solar, including permitting, advantages/threats to adjacent residents. Stephanie Mata discussed the need for a vegetative buffer.

Tiffany Holmes discussed the need for the wording on the Intergovernmental Agreement to be amended and approved by Thursday, August 13, 2020. Attorney Luke Mitchell provided his report, discussion with Brooks County Attorney, James Burchett, and the need to decide on a counteroffer for negotiation. Chairman Jack Harrell voiced his desire for a five-year agreement at .5 mils. The Board requested that page 5 regarding the 60-day notice to terminate, the 3-year at .5 mils, as well as any other contradictions be stricken from the agreement. Andy Swann motioned to approve; Derren Yearby seconded; unanimously approved.

Executive Session

Real Estate. Stephanie Mata motioned to approve to enter Executive Session; Derren Yearby seconded; unanimously approved. Marie Horne discussed potential negative impacts to adjacent property owners, need to prevent such impacts. Attorney Luke Mitchell reported it is zoned multi-family residential and the purpose of the agreement is to limit risk. Restrictions reduced: First right of refusal, \$1 Million penalty removed. Andy Swann motioned to approve amendments; Stephanie Mata seconded; unanimously approved.

Andy Swann motioned to end Executive Session; Stephanie Mata seconded; unanimously approved.

Reports

Reports to be sent via email. There being no further business, Andy Swann motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Stephanie Mata; unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stephanie Mata
Secretary