

MINUTES – DECEMBER 14TH

BROOKS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Chairman Jack Harrell called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Board members Marie Horne, John LaHood, Erin McKenzie and Chairman Jack Harrell attended, along with Engineer Ben DeVane, Attorney Luke Mitchell, Public Accountant Gary Ziegler and Director Stephanie Mata.

Organizational Business

Introduction of new Board members John LaHood and Erin McKenzie. Marie Horne made a motion to accept Erin McKenzie as BCDA Secretary; seconded by John LaHood; unanimously accepted.

Minutes and Financials

Copies of the minutes of the monthly meeting and Executive Session meeting held November 9th were reviewed. Erin McKenzie motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented; seconded by Marie Horne; unanimously accepted.

Copies of the minutes of the Special Called Executive meeting held November 16th were reviewed. Erin McKenzie motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented; seconded by Marie Horne; unanimously accepted.

Old Business

Chairman Harrell moved to Old Business, and the Board discussed the Industrial Park signage. Mr. Ben DeVane discussed that there was no specified time frame but Cauthan Construction had stated they could begin after the first of the year. Erin McKenzie motioned to approve the proposal delivered by Cauthan Construction for two double faced signs for the new Industrial Park in the amount of \$48,200.00; seconded by John LaHood; unanimously accepted.

Director Stephanie Mata updated the Board on BCDA website.

New Business

Chairman Harrell moved to new business. Public Accountant and Auditor Gary Zeigler delivered the 2019 Financial Audit Report to the Board. John LaHood motioned to approve the 2019 Financial Audit Report as presented; seconded by Marie Horne; unanimously accepted.

Director Mata provided an update on Philanthro Films and their tentative closing after the first of the year on the old Swannee Swifty building on Washington Street.

Director Mata provided an update on Project M and discussed the potential significance of said project for the county.

Director Mata moved to the Community Grants. Ratification of the Remote vote for Christmas lights in the amount of \$15, 898, unanimously approved by Tim Crosby, Marie Horne, Derren Yearby, Ulysses Marable and Jack Harrell between November 18th and 19th. Motion made by Erin McKenzie; seconded by Marie Horne; unanimously accepted.

The City of Pavo requested \$5,725.00 for the signage in/out of Pavo. This had been discussed by previous Boards, but the project never completed until now. Motion made by Erin McKenzie to approve the Grant for the City of Pavo in the amount of \$5,725.00 for signage; seconded by Marie Horne; unanimously accepted.

The City of Pavo requested \$3,277.00 for the replacement of a door at the Peacock Center. This is the remaining funds available of the \$25,000 threshold for 2020. Motion made by Marie Horne to approve the Grant for the City of Pavo in the amount of \$3,277.00 for the replacement of a door at the Peacock Center; seconded by Erin McKenzie; unanimously accepted.

Director Mata stated that she intends to reach out to Mr. Tim Crosby and Commissioner Rhett Rowe, who both represent the districts covering Pavo and Barwick. Ms. Mata intends to begin developing a rapport with the commissioners in Thomas County who represent those cities whom we share in the hopes that they will help Brooks rebuild and revitalize these inundated areas.

Dir. Mata moved to Established Businesses. Eric Peak with Peak Performance Gym is the first established business to request a Community Development Grant. Mr. Peak requested funds in the amount of \$7500.00 for signage and gym repairs. After conversation Erin McKenzie motioned to approve the grant in the amount of \$7500.00 for repairs and signage; seconded by Jack Harrell; unanimously approved.

Estab. Bus: Evangela Sears with Preparing for the Future Childcare Center requested a grant in the amount of \$7500.00 for repairs to the childcare facility. Erin McKenzie motioned to approve the grant in the amount of \$7500.00 for repairs; seconded by Marie Horne; unanimously approved.

Discussion regarding developing commercial property for the purpose of generating revenue. Discussion included a Revolving Loan Fund as well.

Reports

No other reports.

Motion to adjourn carried by Erin McKenzie; seconded by Marie Horne; unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted:

Secretary