

**ENNIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019
4:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

President Montgomery called a regular meeting of the Ennis Economic Development Corporation to order on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 4:05 P.M. in the City Commission Chambers of Ennis City Hall, 115 W. Brown Street, Ennis Texas 75119.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Montgomery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nelson offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL

Economic Development Administrative Assistant Rhonda Winters called roll; a quorum was present to wit:

Directors Present: Mike Montgomery, Tom Abram, Betty Glaspy, Jess Haupt, Angie Juenemann, Phil Newsome and Russell Thomas

Directors Absent:

Staff Present: Marty Nelson, Rhonda Winters, Ashley Colunga, Becky McCarty, Gina Rokas, Mary Davis, Scott Dixon, Ben Nibarger

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION & CONSIDERATION

1. Discuss and consider the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting.
 - a. Motion by Abram, 2nd by Newsom approving the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting.
 - i. 7 Ayes
2. Citizens request to address the Board
 - a. No one spoke.
3. Finance Review
 - a. The current budget and finances were presented by Mr. Nelson.
4. Goals and Objectives update
 - a. Staff reviewed and updated, will bring to the board when completed.
5. Economic Development update
 - a. Communications and Marketing update
 - i. Colunga presented an update of the three social media sights stating the amount of followers continues to grow on each site.

- b. Tourism update
 - i. HOT tax had an increase of 9% from fiscal year 2016/2017 to 2017/2018.
 - ii. Will have an editorial in the March issue of Texas Highway Magazine.
 - iii. Ennis will host the National Softball Tournament in July.
 - iv. Ennis will host the Ellis County Quilters show in July.
 - v. Will have a billboard at the Extreme Raceway track in Ferris.

- c. Main Street update
 - i. Lights of Ennis
 - 1. This year was the largest attendance.
 - ii. Farmers Market update
 - 1. Struggling due to poor attendance. Meeting with core vendors to discuss the plan to improve future attendance.
 - 2. Discussed the potential for a Buc-ee's Grant.
 - a. Providing a \$30,000 community grant for 20 years.
 - b. Main Street 501c3 will receive and manage the funds.
 - c. Funds must be used for Farmers Market or the Food Bank.
 - iii. Entertainment RFP
 - 1. 2 RFP's were submitted.
 - 2. Epicenter Productions was awarded the 3 year contract.
 - iv. National Main Street (March 2020)
 - 1. Main Street Conference to be held in Dallas.
 - 2. Focusing on Ennis as a showcase city on the bus tours.
 - 3. Will be working on an RFP to get roof top lights installed before the conference.

- d. Downtown Development update
 - i. Welcome center update
 - 1. Interior walls are installed.
 - 2. The RFP for the "Something Awesome" is being drafted.
 - ii. 305 N Sherman (Demolition)
 - 1. Received the abatement survey.
 - 2. Waiting on bids for the asbestos abatement.

- e. Kaufman Development District update
 - i. Façade Grant for consideration
 - 1. 902 S Kaufman
 - a. \$15,000 project qualifying for a \$7,500 grant.

- f. Industrial Development update
 - i. Project Merryart II
 - 1. Expanding existing production.
 - ii. Project Genesis II
 - 1. Expanding facility
 - iii. Project Benoit Pipe
 - 1. 70 acres, \$10 million in capital, 30 jobs
 - iv. Project Seahorse
 - 1. 120 Acres, \$340 million in capital, 1,000+ jobs

- g. Commercial/Retail Development update
 - i. Buc-ee's Groundbreaking to be held on Tuesday, January 29th @ 9:30.
 - ii. Chick-fil-A
 - 1. Scheduled to break ground in February.
 - iii. Panda Express
 - 1. Scheduled to break ground in February.
 - iv. Hwy 55 Burgers
 - 1. Will be a part of the JT Evans project at Hwy 45 and 34.

ACTIONS

1. Conduct a public hearing to hear testimony and consider taking action upon Project Buc-ee's. Project Buc-ee's purpose is to fund the cost of engineering for public infrastructure. The amount being considered to fund the project is \$75,000.
 - a. Public hearing opened, no comment, public hearing closed.
2. Discuss and consider approving Project Buc-ee's, providing \$75,000 to fund the project and authorizing the President to execute any and all documents required to complete the action.
 - a. Motion by Newsom, 2nd by Abram approving Project Buc-ee's, providing \$75,000 to fund the project and authorizing the President to execute any and all documents required to complete the action.
 - i. 7 Ayes
3. Discuss and consider a façade grant for 902 S Kaufman in an amount of \$7,500.
 - a. Motion by Haupt, 2nd by Juenemann approving a façade grant for 902 S Kaufman in an amount of \$7,500.
 - i. 7 Ayes

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Economic Development Corp. Board, President Montgomery declared the meeting adjourned at 4:34 P.M.



RUSSELL R. THOMAS
Secretary