

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 1, 2023

In Attendance:

Committee: Chairman Rob Rice, Councilman Bill Farnham

City Staff: John Doyle, Miriam Jones, Doug Potts

Guests: Mayor Sean Wilson, Randy Brown, Jerry Brown, Mark Sharadin

Absent: Councilman Cecil Davis

- 1. Call to Order and Citizen Comments**– Chairman Rice called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Citizen Jerry Brown asked what the billboard was going to cost and where it would be located. Doug Potts stated that it is along I-44 heading West, left hand read, 30 x 40 in size. The cost is \$9,600 for 13 months. This includes installation, design, and print. Contract is through Linked Media. Jerry Brown asked how much the green space next to Dollar General cost the city. John Doyle stated that the city currently does not own it so it hasn't cost anything yet. There won't be a legal on the property until construction is over because the developers are using this area for their equipment. The city has an interest in the space and the developers will sell to the city for the sum and consideration of \$10. Councilman Farnham said it was for \$1 but the law changed and is \$10 now. Jerry Brown requested information on setback requirements for Historic 66 corridor. John Doyle will get that information to him.
- 2. Approval of minutes**- Councilman Farnham made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 3, 2023. Chairman Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 3. Select Committee Chair**- Councilman Farnham made a motion to keep Rob Rice as Chairman. Rob Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 4. Business Spotlight**- May Business Spotlight is Margie's Headshed.
- 5. Small Business Renovation/Demolition Grant Program**- Doug Potts stated he has received 6 completed applications so far for the small business renovation/demolition grant program. This program has a total of \$50,000 in ARPA funding to disburse. Mr. Potts recommends approving all six applications for \$5,000 each. There are currently four applications pending for next month, some were not completed correctly so he has to wait for those to be completed before bringing them forward to the committee. Chairman Rice agrees with Doug to grant each applicant \$5,000. Councilman Farnham also agrees however would have to abstain from voting for Business Graphics as he has a current litigation with them. Business Graphics application will be brought back to the next meeting in order to vote it through. Councilman Farnham made a motion to approve Odyssey Scuba, Haute Dawgs, Piney River Tap Room, We Can Development LLC, and Parabellum/JUL LLC for \$5,000 each. Chairman Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 6. Small Business Enhancement Program Update**- Doug Potts stated that within two months of this grant being available it is out of funding. Funds are starting to be distributed to the businesses that submitted applications and were approved. These businesses are listed in March and April's meeting minutes.
- 7. Tourism Asset Development Grant**- Doug Potts applied for this grant for the mitigation of Nickels Apartments. Requested \$500,000. There were over 240 applicants and unfortunately ours did not get selected.
- 8. I-44 Billboard**- Doug Potts stated he has been searching for a billboard since he was hired. Billboards have been hard to come by and once this one became available did not want to

pass up. Already have an idea of what to put on it. It is a great advertisement spot. Map was provided to show location of billboard.

- 9. Co-Star 6 month trial-** Doug Potts stated that Co-Star is the most powerful real estate application that lists properties at a national level. Mr. Potts has a 6 month free trial and hopes to get the city more visibility during this time period.

10. Special Events-

- i. Freedom Fest- May 6, 2023
- ii. CASA- May 8-12, 2023
- iii. 3V3 Soccer Tournament- May 13, 2023
- iv. Kids to Park Day- June 3, 2023
- v. Juneteenth Celebration- June 19, 2023
- vi. Cave State Cruisers- June 23-25, 2023

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting will be held on June 5, 2023, at 5 p.m.