



DESOTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2016

The DeSoto Economic Development Corporation Board met at **9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 26, 2016** in the Council Conference Room located in City Hall at the DeSoto Town Center, 211 East Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto Texas 75115.

Present: Lucious Williams, Board President
Belinda May, Board Vice-President
Stephanie Bowers, Board Director
Curt Krohn, Board Director
Bobby Waddle, Board Director

Staff Present: Jeremiah Quarles, Chief Executive Officer
Steven Drake, Economic Development Specialist
Alicia Villanueva, Administrative Assistant

Also Present: Laura Terhune – President, DeSoto Chamber of Commerce
Deshaundra Lockhart Jones – Councilmember
Kevin Laughlin – Attorney, Nichols, Jackson, Dillard Hager & Smith, LLP

At 9:10 a.m., Board President Williams called the meeting to order and acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

A. REGULAR SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

1. Invocation was given by Curt Krohn

B. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the August 22, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of the DEDC Financials through August 31, 2016

Motion by Board member May. Second by Board member Bowers to approve Consent Agenda. Motion approved by Board members May, Bowers, Krohn, Williams, and Waddle (Motion approved 5-0)

C. REGULAR AGENDA – NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and action to elect a member of the DEDC Board of Directors as Treasurer

Motion by Board member Waddle. Second by Board member Krohn to elect Stephanie Bowers to Treasurer. Motion approved by Board members Waddle, Krohn, Williams, and May (Motion approved 4-0)

2. City Liaison Update – Councilmember D. Lockhart Jones update on City Council events, meetings, etc.
 - a) The City Budget was approved and property taxes were reduced to \$0.7499. The City of DeSoto received a strong financial rating of AA from Standard & Poor. Councilmember Lockhart-Jones gave an update on Chattey Road improvements and street modifications. Boards and Commissions interviews will be conducted on Tuesday, September 27th. Several positions are open.
 - b) The “Walk to School” event will take place at Northside Elementary. It is a project that allows individuals to walk to school with children and have an opportunity to interact with students.
 - c) “National Night Out” is scheduled for October 4th. DeSoto’s Police Department encourages the community to get out and meet their neighbors. Food and safety tips will be offered to all.

3. DeSoto Chamber of Commerce Update - Laura Terhune, President

- a) Chamber is getting ready for the Second Annual "Taste of DeSoto and Business Expo" which is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2016 at DeSoto Civic Center, Bluebonnet Room. Vendors, food trucks and live entertainment will be a part of the event. The Chamber will also honor restaurateur David Wilson from David's Seafood Restaurant who passed away.
- b) Hosted the Third Quarter Membership Luncheon "Methodist Charlton Update" on Thursday, September 15th in the Auditorium at MCMC. The event was very good and Chamber members were recognized with certificates. A representative from Senator Cruz's office was invited to speak, as well.
- c) The Annual Gala "Blueprint for the Future" is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th at the Hilton Garden Inn.
- d) Hometown Holiday Parade will be take place Saturday, December 3, 2016.
- e) A Small Business Workshop "Speed Reading to Success" by Howard Berg will take place October 13th at the Chamber.

Recess of meeting 10:12

Reconvened into open session 10:20

4. Discussion and possible action regarding Revolving Loan Fund Program

Members had a discussion and review of the loan program criteria and the funds allocated for future loans. Board members agreed that they will review the RLF program again when they have a need for new loans.

5. Discussion and action on Eagle Business & Industrial Park signage

CEO Quarles spoke on the new revisions and cost for the signage at Centre Park, which was provided by Ad Art Sign Company. Further planning for the size, visibility and illumination of signs was discussed. More follow up is needed before a decision is made to install.

6. Discussion regarding DEDC Strategic Plan and Work Plan

No discussion.

7. Discussion regarding procedures and criteria for evaluation of DEDC staff.

Board member May would like to meet at a later time with CEO to further discuss employee evaluations for staff.

D. BRIEFING BY JEREMIAH QUARLES – DEDC CEO

1. Scorecard update on current DEDC activities

- a) ITT has closed the location in DeSoto. DEDC spoke to the landlord, the Weitzman Group, to evaluate other options for building after ITT gets out of bankruptcy.
- b) The First Choice Emergency Room has changed to Texas Health.
- c) Top 5 BBQ featured in D Magazine's 'Best Barbecue in Dallas' edition at #8.
- d) The Soaring Eagle Center relocated and expanded its presence to 107 Executive Way. They provide adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities a place to learn, develop friendships and participate in the community.

2. Update on local site visits and retention efforts – Steven Drake, Economic Development Specialist

- a) Mr. Drake along with Laura Terhune of the DeSoto Chamber is assisting Councilmember Quarles with the city job fair planning.
- b) Board member May mentioned that she would like a link on our website to show jobs available or who is hiring throughout the city.

E. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss President Williams adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.


Lucious Williams, Board President


Curt Krohn, Secretary