



MINUTES January 25, 2021

The DeSoto Economic Development Corporation (DEDC) Board met at **9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021** by videoconference at www.gotomeeting.com and was live streamed on the City of DeSoto's website at www.desototexas.gov.

Present: Curtis Krohn, Board President
Dr. Delva King, Board Vice President
Michelle Jordan, Board Secretary/Treasurer
Bobby Waddle, Board Director

Staff Present: Joe Newman — Chief Executive Officer

Also Present: Melissa Adams — Accounting II, City of DeSoto
Brandon Wright — City Manager, City of DeSoto
Andre' Byrd, Sr. — Council member, City Council Liaison, City of DeSoto
Kenneth Govan — Former Board Chairman, DeSoto Chamber of Commerce
Pete Smith — Attorney, Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, LLP
Terry Toomey — Executive Director, The Industry HUB
Monte Anderson — Owner, Options Real Estate
Tom Figert — Director of Information Technology, City of DeSoto

Absent: Paul Griffin, Jr., Board Director

At 9:01 a.m., Board President Curtis Krohn called the meeting to order and acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

A. REGULAR SESSION – CALL TO ORDER

1. Invocation was given by Board President Curt Krohn

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consideration and approval of the December 7, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.
- b. Consideration and approval of the October 31, 2020 income and expenses.
- c. Annual advertising in the Dallas Economic Development Guide. \$5,100 (same as last year).

Board member Bobby Waddle motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Seconded by Director Michelle Jordan. Passed unanimously. Director Paul Griffin was not present

for the motion.

C. REGULAR AGENDA – NEW BUSINESS – Items for discussion and/or possible action:

1. Grow DeSoto Market Place Incubator Financial Status Report. Presentation by Monte Anderson, Options Real Estate. Mr. Anderson reviewed the income of the GDMP for November and December.
2. Financial Status Report for November and December, 2020. Presentation by Melissa Adams, Accountant II, City of DeSoto. Ms. Adams reviewed the financial report for November and December for the board.
3. City Council Liaison update regarding City events, meetings, etc. by Councilmember Andre` Byrd, Sr., City of DeSoto.
Councilman Byrd said that a recent controversial apartment complex has decided to withdraw their application to build in North DeSoto on Bolton Boone.
4. DeSoto Chamber of Commerce update by former Board Chairman Kenneth Govan told the board that the chamber's "Good Morning DeSoto" breakfast has been renamed "Good Morning One DeSoto". Recent ribbon cuttings included: Taxes R Us and OMG Cakes & Southern Best Catering, LLC. He said that 1,508 people viewed the Special Election Candidates Forum online that the chamber sponsored. Councilmember Byrd also thanked the chamber for the event. City manager Brandon Wright thanked the chamber for sponsoring the State of The City address last Saturday. Councilmember Dinah Marks texted Councilmember Byrd and asked that he convey her thanks for the chamber and DEDC for sponsoring the iCSI Customer Service Excellence Workshop coming up February 23rd. Mr. Govan also mentioned that Whataburger was partnering with the chamber on training.
5. The Industry HUB's Grow DeSoto Market Place Activity Summary Report for December 16 to January 15 by Terry Toomey, Executive Director, The Industry HUB.
Ms. Toomey said the monthly GDMP tenant meetings were going well and she urged the board to sign-up for her monthly online newsletter. She discussed helping any DeSoto businesses with the PPP loan program and how to get it forgiven. She has an upcoming meeting with the City of Dallas Procurement Department and hopes DeSoto will also participate in helping local businesses receive an opportunity to bid on goods and services.
6. Update on the Type B election for the DEDC and its anticipated changes. Presentation by Brandon Wright, City Manager, City of DeSoto.
Mr. Wright said the joint meeting of the DEDC board and Parks Board went well last week and minor changes will be implemented to the bylaws as both groups transition.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE:

Texas Government Code, Section 551.087: Economic Development Deliberation:

1. Deliberation and Discussion regarding the Economic Development negotiations for Project Big Box.

Texas Government Code, Section 551.074: Personnel:

2. Deliberation and Discussion regarding the Annual Performance Review and Employment Contract of Joe Newman, Chief Executive Officer.

Texas Government Code, Section 551.071:

3. Consultation with general counsel to seek update and legal advice regarding Jeremiah Quarles litigation.

After reading the above items into the record, President Krohn called the board into Executive Session at 9:45am.

E. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION** – President Krohn reconvened the board into Regular Open Session at 10:55am

F. **ACTION AS RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Krohn said the board had evaluated Newman’s job performance and had scored him as an A+. He also achieved one of the major goals of sales tax increase of 10% or more and thus eligible for a small bonus.

On a motion by President Krohn and seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Michele Jordan, the board unanimously to increase his salary by three percent and a bonus of three percent of that new salary.

G. **BRIEFING BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – Joe D. Newman**

1. Mr. Newman presented Certificates of Course Completion for: Economic Development Sales Tax Workshop; Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act to Curt Krohn, Delva King, PhD and Paul Griffin, Jr. The online webinar had been presented by Attorney General’s Office and the Texas Economic Development Council.
2. Mr. Newman told the board that he was very pleased to see the January Sales Tax Allocation from the State Comptroller was up 19.61% over last January. He also mentioned that he and Deputy City Manager Kristoff Bauer recently had a good meeting with The Retail Coach team and a copy of their new demographics were forwarded to the board and city manager for distribution and marketing efforts. Mr. Newman said that he would be speaking at the Texas Legislative Conference February 23. The conference is normally held during the legislative session in Austin, but would be virtual this year.

H. **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Board announcements are regarding local civic and charitable events, meetings, fundraisers, awards, expression of thanks, congratulations or condolences. NONE.

I. **ADJOURNMENT** – President Krohn adjourned the meeting at 11:04am

Curtis Krohn, Board President

Dr. Delva King, Board Vice President