

# **SHEPHERD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGULAR CALLED MEETING

28 N. Liberty, Shepherd, Texas 77371

September 2, 2024, at 6:00pm

**Members Present:** Kurtz Stowers, Mark Porter, Charles Minton, Billy Lacoste,

**Members Absent:** Mark Hamilton, Freddy Ramos,

**Others Present:** Debra Hagler, Isaac & Clark Addison

## **CALLED TO ORDER/INVOCATION/PLEDGE**

Kurtz Stowers called the meeting to order with Wendell Williams leading in prayer, then pledges were recited.

## **APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Mark Porter made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Charles Minton seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

## **APPROVAL MONTHLY PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mark Porter made a motion to pay the bills. Billy LaCoste seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

## **CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS:**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update and take any action required regarding Clark Addison's video/ promotional advertisement campaign.**

Mark Porter made a motion that the trial is over and to shut it down unless Clark gets interest to keep it going. The EDC will step out and allow the equipment to continue to be used. Charles Minton seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. Discuss was held that the pricing prohibits the smaller businesses when they are not seeing results. They board decided to give Clark leeway to see if he can get the five customers to keep the business going. The board asked Clark to come back in 30 day and then discussion will be held regarding the equipment. Several of the board members congratulated Clark and exclaimed how proud they are of him and his efforts.

**Discuss and take action regarding a 3–5-year business plan for the EDC.**

Mark Porter made a motion to invite Kenneth LaVergne to participate in a meeting to give insight. Billy LaCoste seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Kurtz and Mayor Minton held a meeting. They determined that it would be a good idea to "Get the house in order" before spending funds for a professional business planner. Mark Porter held a conversation with new City Attorney Kenneth LaVergne at the last Council meeting and realized that he could give the EDC some valuable insight from his experiences.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discuss and take action to allow Ernest Bailes to continue to rent his space and if so, determine the amount of rent.**

Billy LaCoste made a motion to charge Mr. Bails the same rent as Mark Porter pays for the other office in this building. Charles Minton seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. Mr. Porter stated that he feels the rent is reasonable. Mr. Bailes currently has a discounted rent in consideration of the value placed on having a State Representative housed in Shepherd. Mr. Bails will no longer be the representative as of January 2025 but desires to keep the office to house his real estate business.

**Discuss and take action regarding the proposed 2024-25 Budget.**

Charles Minton made a motion to accept the budget as it to be presented to Council for final approval. Mark Porter seconded the motion, and the vote passed with a unanimous vote. Two new line items were added for this budget year. Research & Studies totaling \$20,000.00 and Incentives totaling \$300,000.00.

**MONTHLY REPORT FROM LAUREN:**

Lauren was not present to give a report.

**OPEN DISCUSSION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was discussion regarding Lauren. There were no negative comments made regarding Lauren however they desire a little more accountability, setting some goals and directions for her.

There was discussion regarding Buckey's and how they want Lauren to seriously, aggressively pursue this.

Discussion was held regarding zoning certain areas of the city.

Billy stated he has been researching park equipment and asked what the board thought about some equipment at the Gazebo Park.

They asked Debra to reach out to Biddle.

**ADJOURN: 7:06pm**

Charles Minton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Billy LaCoste seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kurtz Stowers, EDC President  
\*Prepared by Debra Hagler