

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

FOR

Crockett Economic & Industrial Development Corporation

Board of Directors

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 5:30PM

CEIDC Directors Present:

Gerald Barkley
Robert Thompson
Colin Castleberry
Chris Von Doenhoff

City of Crockett

Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor

COUNTY

Gary Lovell, County Commissioner

Visitor:

Lisa Mutchler
Jessica James

CEIDC STAFF:

James J. Gentry
Carolyn Mcknight

- I. Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Gentry at 5:35pm.

- II. Opening Meeting with Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Fisher led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

- III. Acknowledgement of Visitors and Public Comments:** Lisa Mutchler, Program Director Economic & Workforce Development, Jessica James, General Manager of Onshore Outsourcing and Gary Lovell, County Commissioner Precinct #1.

Mr. Gentry asked Jessica James if she would like to have any comments or update us on Onshore. Ms. James introduced herself as the General Manager of Onshore Outsourcing. She

does not have any updates at the moment. Her start day was delayed but the CFO and the HR Director will be flying into town within the next two weeks. Jessica stated that Onshore is still here and still open and Onshore does not have any plans of closing or leaving any time soon that she know of. She is really excited to be a part of this community that she is a product of. If she gets any updates, she will definitely share. Gerald Barkley asked Ms. James if the remote employee were from the Crockett Center or somewhere else. Ms. James explained that some are from Crockett and some are from other parts of Texas. Ms. James stated that she is not acclimated to the role as of yet and she is not exactly sure who is where. She does know that some are hybrid and some are strictly remote. Colin Castleberry asked Ms. James, how many employees are working in the building? He was under the assumption that everyone was working from home. Ms. James stated that the employees have an option. Since she has been here, she has only seen three employees in the building. Ms. James added that one of her goals is to provide our community with jobs. Mr. Gentry thanked Ms. James for coming and updating us.

- IV. **Discuss and Approve Crockett Proposal to Facilitate Strategic Plan for Economic Development:** Lisa Mutchler, Program Director Economic & Workforce Development gave a PowerPoint presentation on Strategic Planning and where it fits in our City and County. Ms. Mutchler opened the floor for comments and/or questions. Mayor Fisher asked questions and made some comments. Ms. Mutchler politely answered each question. Ms. Mutchler left her business cards in case the Board had any questions at a later time. Mr. Gentry stated that Judge Lovell would have been here but he was diagnosed with COVID. Mr. Gentry thanked Ms. Mutchler for coming and introduced her to County Commissioner Gary Lovell.
- V. **Approval of July 22, 2021 Minutes:** A motion was made by Gerald Barkley to approve the July 22, 2021 minutes. A second was made by Colin Castleberry. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- VI. **Approval of July 2021 Financials:** Mr. Gentry commented that we gave 10 more checks (\$500.00 each) for the Economic Recovery Taskforce for small businesses. The total for all the relief for small businesses was \$40,000.00. Congressman Kevin Brady made a point to thank us for our efforts in supporting the small businesses during his round table discussion on Thursday at the Civic Center. A motion was made by Gerald Barkley to approve the July 22, 2021 financials. A second was made by Chris Von Doenhoff. The financials were approved unanimously.
- VII. **Discuss and Approve Support for Tex-21 Resolution in Support of Converting US 287 to Interstate Status:** Mr. Gentry stated that in the packet, there is a report from Zack Turner, Assistant Public Policy Consultant for Dean International, Inc. Mr. Gentry stated

that he had been asked by Tex-21 lobbying group to be a focal point for all the EDC's reaching out along US287 to join us in supporting the efforts to move US287 to interstate status. A week ago, he met with Tex-21 Representative on a zoom meeting along with TX-Dot and some of the State Representatives and Senators of the State. Everyone was very positive for the efforts that are being made. The report that is in the packet is an overview that will be presented to all the cities along US287. The impact that this interstate could have on Crockett and this whole country is very significant. Mr. Gentry told the Board that he wanted to allow his Board to have a level of understanding of the US287 initiative. He also asked the Board, that if they so choose, they could write him a letter of support. Mr. Von Doenhoff chimed in on his thoughts and what needs to take place to get the project on its way. Mr. Gentry said that when Congressman Brady was here, he was able to have a conversation with him about the initiative. Congressman Brady was so impressed that he wanted to put his name behind our efforts. Mr. Von Doenhoff said if the county is going to grow, then transportation is the key. Mr. Gentry asked for the Board's support in moving forward.

VIII. **Consider and Approve Grant Writer: Azimuth Grants.** Mr. Gentry reported that there is some federal funding that will be coming down the pipe. He has been looking for a grant writer to not only apply for grants but to identify some of those grants especially from the infrastructure, transportation and workforce aspect. A copy of the proposal is in the packet. The group is out of Alabama but they are nationwide. Mr. Gentry expressed that he wanted the Board to be aware of what the proposal involved and hopefully in the next meeting we can act on whether to move forward. The Board discussed the financial aspect of the proposal. Mr. Castleberry asked if there was any reason that we could not approve the proposal today. He said that it sounds like a great idea. He was not opposed on voting on it now. Mr. Gentry stated to the Board that if their schedules permitted, he could set up a zoom meeting or a conference call. Mr. Barkley said that he is on board with getting a grant writer but he wants to be sure that we have the right one. Mr. Gentry noted that there is federal money out there and it is going somewhere and he would like for us to get a part of it. We do not need to be sitting on the side lines. Federal money would go a lot further than the money that we have in the bank right now. Mr. Gentry said that he would try to line up a conversation on next week and the Board can be a part of that conversation.

IX. **Consider and Approve Web Master:** Mr. Gentry stated that he had received two proposals. One of the proposal was from Rev. Reginald Marshall and the other proposal was from Rev. Ron Forehand. Mr. Gentry specified that Rev. Marshall's proposal was the less expensive of the two proposals. He is recommending that Rev. Marshall be the one that we consider. Mr. Castleberry asked what will Mr. Marshall be doing that ED Suite cannot do? Mr. Gentry said that ED Suite is maintaining our email and domain, as well as our security on our website. Rev. Marshal will be helping the day to day projections on

our website as well as the social media aspects. Mr. Castleberry said that he is not understanding Rev. Marshall's proposal. Mr. Castleberry expressed that social media is nowhere in the proposal. Mr. Gentry asked Colin if he could solicit his support in sitting down and discussing the proposal with Mr. Marshall. Mr. Castleberry said of course. Mr. Castleberry said that he has a concern that he does not know what the Board would be approving. Mr. Castleberry had many pointed questions. After much discussion, Mr. Barkley said that he thinks that we ought to table the discussion until Mr. Marshall has had a chance to come in and clarify his proposal and answer some questions.

- X. **Community Outreach:** Mr. Gentry mentioned that he had received an email on yesterday and the signs should be up on August 25th. Mr. Gentry mentioned two confidential items that are in the packet that the Board can address with him at a later date. Another item was a solicitation for the Myrtis Dightman Rodeo for sponsorship opportunities. The sponsorships are \$500.00 items. After a brief discussion, Mr. Barkley commented that the Board table it for now until we find out whether it is legal. Mr. Barkley made a motion to give Mr. Gentry the authority to find out whether it is legal to donate up to \$500.00. Mr. Castleberry seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Gentry said that he had copied the Board the invoice from Culpepper Electric and they are in the process of fixing the lighting in the Tech Center parking lot. The final thing that is in the packet is a TEDC 2021 Community Economic Development Award Nomination. Mr. Gentry has submitted Lincoln Lumber as a nominee. Mr. Gentry mentioned that he had sit through a zoom webinar that talked about community development. The presenters were pretty impressive and the two books were highlighted, Recast your City and 13 Ways to kill your Community. Mr. Gentry presented Board both books for their reading pleasure. Mr. Gentry reminded the Board to go to the bank to sign the signature card.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18.



President



Secretary/Treasurer