

MINUTES

AMARILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 20, 2020

The meeting of the AEDC Board of Directors meeting of April 20, 2020 was held via video conference in accordance with the Order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020. Board members in attendance were:

Voting Members	Board Position	Present	No. Meetings Held	No. Meetings Attended
Lloyd Brown	Chairman	Y	26	21
Scott Bentley	Vice-Chair/Secretary	Y	16	16
Brian Heinrich	Director	Y	48	46
Laura Street	Director	Y	36	34
Andrew Hall	Director	Y	4	4

Also, in attendance were the following staff members:

KEVIN CARTER	PRESIDENT & CEO
DOUG NELSON	Sr. VICE-PRESIDENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES
REAGAN HALES	VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MICHAEL KITTEN	VICE PRESIDENT, BUS. RETENTION & EXPANSION
SABRINA MECK PEREZ	DIR., WORKFORCE ATTRACTION & RETENTION
SAVANNAH TARBET	DIR., MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
CHRIS LYLES	OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

ITEM 1: Chairman Brown established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2: Chairman Brown requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Director Heinrich made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Street seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

ITEM 3: **Texas Workforce Commission High Demand Job Training Grant:** President Carter provided information on the Texas Workforce Commission High Demand Job Training grant available only through economic development organizations using the sales tax dollars. These are matched funds, up to \$150,000.00. These grants will help local school districts with their training programs.

He also provided information on the top 10 high demand jobs, based on a list available from Texas Workforce Commission.

The funds given to the districts are based on the size of the school district.

President Carter stated that at the local level of the workforce board, which operates through the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC), there is an additional \$100,000 matching grant available.

This would be potentially \$250,000 from the Amarillo EDC for the local school districts to use toward their CTE programs in their high schools.

Director Heinrich asked what would happen if the state funds were not available once the application is submitted. President Carter stated that if the board approves the funds, it could be approved with the contingency of matching funds.

Director Heinrich then asked if the funds could be approved without a contingency upon the matching funds. President Carter stated the need is there, with or without the matching funds availability.

Director Street stated that the need has been present even before the COVID19 situation, and she feels the motions should not be contingent on the matching funds. Director Hall agreed with this statement.

Director Street made a motion to approve \$150,000 for the TWC High Demand Job Training grant for the local school district's CTE programs, without a contingency dependent on the matching grant from the state. Director Heinrich seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Hall made a motion to approve \$100,000 toward the local workforce board grant for the CTE programs in the local school district's high schools. Director Street seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

ITEM 4: Staff Financial & Operational Updates: President Carter provided an update on the sales tax collected, which was down 1.86% for February, up 3.6% for the year. He stated that the Hotel/Motel tax is flat.

President Carter stated that the city is working on a chart of what the sales tax collections are projected to be moving forward.

President Carter indicated that the February Managerial reports are available for the board's review and inquiry.

President Carter provided an update on the website built by Vice-President Hales and Director Tarbet: www.txpanhandlecovid19.com.

Vice-Chairman Bentley asked if there was information on how many visitors had been to the site. Director Tarbet stated that the site has been live for about a month and it has had more than 500 visitors.

President Carter stated that Vice-President Hales has been helping the Texas Workforce Commission as they hosted webinars in the past several weeks. Those recorded webinars are available on the TWC site as well as the Amarillo EDC site.

He also stated that the staff is working on programs to further assist the small businesses in the area impacted by the COVID19 situation. These programs will be brought before the board once they are solidified.

President Carter stated that through the Paycheck Protection Program, statewide there have been 88,000 businesses that applied for, or were granted, the loans with \$22billion being granted. Locally there has been \$1billion dollars granted and 75,000 jobs saved.

Chairman Brown asked if there were any updates on any of the projects. President Carter stated that the staff is still working on the BRE project that was discussed previously. He also stated that the staff continues to receive inquiries from consultants and Vice-President Hales has submitted RFPs as well.

ITEM 5: The next meeting for the Board of Directors of the Amarillo EDC is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2020 at 11:00 am.

ITEM 6: Chairman Brown provided an opportunity for comments from the public. There were none.

ITEM 7: The April 20, 2020 meeting of the Amarillo EDC Board of Directors was adjourned at 11:21 am.

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing information is correct.


Lloyd Brown, Chairman