

SANTA FE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DATE: MAY 9, 2023, AT 7:00 PM
SANTA FE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
12002 HWY. 6, SANTA FE, TEXAS

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Fidencio Leija, Jr.

Roll Call: Present: President Fidencio Leija, Jr.
Vice President Matt Crable
Director Tamra Loftin
Director Robert Bracknell
Director Bob Wylie

Absent: Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Carner, excused
Director Gregg Vicknair

The Invocation was given by President Fidencio Leija. President Leija also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Executive Staff Reports

A. Approval of Amended Board Minutes from January 31, 2023, Regular Meeting

Vice President Matt Crable made a motion to approve the Amended Board Minutes from the January 31, 2023, Regular Meeting and Director Tamra Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

VI. Business

A. New Business:

1. Discussion with possible final action on approving the Santa Fe Fire & Rescue Ladder Truck Project and budgeting if needed.

Economic Development Corporation Director Rudy Zepeda explained that this will be the final action for the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) before being submitted to the Santa Fe City Council for its two readings of the approval resolution. Mr. Zepeda stated that the results of the public comments were 35 in favor of the EDC's partial funding of the Santa Fe Fire & Rescue (SFFR) Rescue Ladder Truck Project and 37 opposed.

Mr. Zepeda contacted the Texas Municipal League (TML) to gain clarification on whether this possible funding would be allowed under the laws and liabilities of the

Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Zepeda explained that, under Section 505.158 of the Texas Local Government Code, if the cost of the project expenditure is greater than \$10,000.00, then the EDC may not undertake the project until the City of Santa Fe City Council adopts a resolution authorizing the project, after giving the resolution after at least two separate readings.

Mr. Zepeda clarified that the stipulations that would need to be met by the Santa Fe Fire & Rescue in order to be granted the partial funding by the EDC are as follows:

1. Obtain a new ISO certification reflecting the New Level I rating within one year of the fire truck being delivered.
2. Last use funding: the money from the EDC will be the last used for funding.
3. Proof that the ISO rating will give commercial businesses insurance reductions.
4. Galveston County Emergency Services District 1 and the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue shall provide financial records to the Economic Development Corporation for review.
5. Unanimous vote by the Emergency Services District 1 stating that there is a need for the fire truck
6. Conversion to a loan if any of the other conditions were not met.

Mr. Zepeda noted that the fifth and sixth stipulations were added by the Santa Fe City Council.

President Fidencio Leija added that any potential funding from the EDC would not occur until all of the conditions had been met. President Leija further explained that the payments would be disbursed at \$125,000.00 per year for four years.

Vice President Matt Crable clarified that the funding would come from sales tax revenue and not from tax increases. Director Tamra Loftin added that there is concern from some citizens that a tax increase would be the source of the funding of the Ladder Truck. Mr. Zepeda reiterated that the EDC is funded by ½ cent sales tax.

Vice President Matt Crable made a motion to approve, and Director Robert Bracknell seconded the motion. The motion passed with four votes in favor, and Director Bob Wylie abstaining due to a possible conflict of interest because of Director Wylie's affiliation with the Santa Fe Fire & Rescue as a lifetime member.

2. Discussion with possible action on the acceptance of Director Robert Bracknell, and timeline for his successor.

President Fidencio Leija presented a plaque to Director Robert Bracknell in appreciation for his service to the Santa Fe Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

President Leija announced that since there is now a vacancy on the EDC Board, applications are being accepted for Director Bracknell's successor and that EDC Board members are appointed by the City Council.

Director Bob Wylie made a motion to accept Director Bracknell's resignation, with a second by Director Tamra Loftin. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Citizens' Comments & Announcements

There were no citizen comments.

President Fidencio Leija congratulated the scholarship recipients at this evening's Santa Fe High School 2023 Awards Ceremony.

President Leija also announced that Santa Fe Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Kevin Bott is meeting with members of the bond committee to discuss possible bonds for the growth of Santa Fe Independent School District and the City of Santa Fe.

President Leija mentioned that the construction of Big Horn BBQ is progressing.

VIII. Summary of action from this agenda

President Fidencio Leija asked Economic Development Corporation Director Rudy Zepeda if there were any other members who had expressed interest in attending the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Conference in Las Vegas later this month and Mr. Zepeda responded that there were not.

Request for future agenda items

There were no requests for future agenda items.

Scheduling for future meetings

Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Director Rudy Zepeda noted that the next Regular Meeting of the EDC would be held the last Friday of May.

IX. Adjournment

Vice President Matt Crable made a motion to adjourn, Director Wylie seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:


Fidencio Leija, Jr., President


Rudy Zepeda, Executive Director