

**BASTROP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BEDC)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Minutes of Special Meeting, July 26, 2021  
Bastrop City Hall, 1311 Chestnut Street, Bastrop, Texas**

The Bastrop Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) met on Monday, July 26, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. for a Special Meeting. Board members present: Kathryn Nash, Kevin Plunkett, Sam Kier, Connie Schroeder, Ron Spencer, Jeff Haladyna, and Bill Gossett. Staff members present: Genora Young, Angela Ryan, and Jean Riemenschneider.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Board Chair Nash called the Special Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)** – There were no public comments.

3. **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP**

3.1. Discussion and possible action on items discussed at the joint meeting with City Council held on July 12, 2021, including:

- 1) **Mission Statement** – The board members began discussing the current mission statement: “The Bastrop Economic Development Corporation welcomes you to the next frontier of development for Central Texas.”
- 2) **Local Government Code – Type B – Sections 501-505** – Interim Executive Director Young reviewed portions of the Local Government Codes (LGCs) that govern a Type B economic development organization. Mr. Kier then offered his opinion that the list of projects currently being considered by the Board should be prioritized and also determine how well each project fits within the LGCs and if they fulfill the BEDC’s mission.
- 3) **Administrative/Operational Procedures and Process** – Ms. Young gave a general overview of the process for adopting projects and the Board discussed it. The Board also discussed assisting Bastrop County with projects outside the city limits. Mr. Spencer recommended having a meeting with Bastrop County at least once a year. Ms. Nash requested an economic impact analysis and a timeline of each project be included when projects are presented to the Board.
- 4) **Incentives** – Staff explained the current incentives available to businesses considering locating in Bastrop. Ms. Young stated that her opinion is not to be too specific as to what incentives will be offered to a project, but to be open and consider each project as a whole on a case-by-case basis. A list of possible incentives is listed on the BEDC’s website. Ms. Young would like to develop an incentives program for BRE (Business Expansion and Retention), in which case any incentives available to existing businesses should be more specific. The Board and staff also discussed that incentives are often not monetary in nature – they can range from connecting a project to other resources to working to develop an employee training program.

The meeting was recessed for lunch from 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.

Continuation of 1) Mission Statement – The Board continued discussion about the mission statement, including reviewing the one the BEDC had prior to adopting the current mission statement, as well as looking at those from some other communities. Ultimately the following new mission statement was agreed upon: “The mission of the Bastrop Economic

*BEDC*

*mission is:*

Development Corporation is to be a driving force to attract, support, and sustain the economic growth of the Bastrop Community.”

- 5) The City CIP Infrastructure Request – Assistant City Manager Trey Job had provided a handout for the Board’s review. The list of infrastructure projects included: Old Iron Bridge; recreation center; sports complex; downtown lighting; Agnes Street extension; and broadband. The Board agreed to add the following to the FY 2022 budget: the 1% match on the Agnes Street extension, in the amount of \$43,000; \$50,000 for a broadband feasibility study, with the request that the City negotiate a performance agreement with the BEDC and also present the proposal to the Board; \$50,000 for a feasibility study for a sports complex as recommended by the 2020 Garner Report, also with the understanding that a performance agreement would be needed; Old Iron Bridge – the majority of the Board agreed that the BEDC would help support the repairs to the bridge if necessary.
- 6) Other City Funding Request – The Board agreed to include \$50,000 in the FY 2022 budget for support of the Main Street Program, contingent upon them entering into a new agreement with the BEDC. Mr. Kier suggested allocating \$12,500 per quarter and requiring quarterly updates from the Main Street Program. It was also agreed to add \$164,000 to the budget for downtown lighting.
- 7) Bastrop EDC Projects, Programs, Infrastructure – The Board discussed the recommended priorities of the 2020 Strategic Plan. The consensus was that installing infrastructure in the Business Park is more important than a spec building. The BEDC is continuing their efforts toward attracting higher education. There will be \$50,000 budgeted next year for the feasibility study on a sports complex. The Board and Staff agreed that there should be a renewed effort for entrepreneur and small business assistance. Next year’s budget will include funds for hiring a “shepherd” to help guide projects through the development process. As for marketing, the BEDC has already completely revamped the brand, website, marketing materials, etc.

3.2. Discussion and possible action regarding the draft budget for fiscal year 2021/2022, including any proposed changes. The Board went over the draft budget for FY 2022. Mr. Kier reminded the Board that the estimated cost for the infrastructure of the southern portion of the Business Park is \$5 to \$8 million. The estimate for the two additional lanes on Agnes Street is \$2 million. He said he did not think it needed to be included in the FY 2022 budget, but that the Board should keep it in mind. The Board discussed the staffing at the BEDC office, and ultimately recommended budgeting for two additional staff members. The amount of the Corix study will be moved from this year’s budget to FY 2022, as well as the final payment for Project Gummy Bears.

4. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

APPROVED: Kathryn Nash  
Kathryn Nash, Board Chair

ATTEST: Angela Ryan  
Angela Ryan, Operations Manager