

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 7, 2023

In Attendance:

Committee: Chairman Rob Rice, Councilman Bill Farnham, Councilman Cecil Davis

City Staff: John Doyle, Miriam Jones, Doug Potts, Sean Wilson

1. **Call to Order and Citizen Comments**– Chairman Rice called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
2. **Approval of minutes**- Councilman Davis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 3, 2023. Councilman Farnham seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. **Business Spotlight**- August Business Spotlight- Piney River Tap Room
4. **Small Business Renovation/Demolition Grant Program**- Doug Potts presented the last grant application for the SBRD Grant Program. Mr. Potts recommended approving City Cleaners application for \$5,000. Councilman Davis made a motion to approve application for \$5,000. Councilman Farnham seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. **New Businesses**- Homestead Designs moving into Roubidoux Plaza. Interior Design Firm.
6. **Dollar General Update**- Doug Potts discussed the interior configuration of Dollar General. He is waiting on a response from someone working at Corporate to find out what happened to the original rendering of the Dollar General being a marketplace. Councilman Farnham stated that he understands corporate can change what they want but feel as though we were lied to. Doug Potts stated the individuals that came and provided the renderings do not know why the plans were changed either. Even the General Manager does not know when they changed the floorplan. The decision was made by Corporate Headquarters and still waiting on an answer at this time. Mr. Potts stated the Dollar General sign is temporary until new sign comes in. The Route 66 mural will still be painted on the side of the building and Dollar General is in process of hiring artist to do that.
7. **EDA Public Works and Economic Assistance Grant**- Doug Potts discussed grant opportunity specifically aimed at Public Works. John Doyle stated ideas for the grant; sewer treatment plant improvements or an electrical substation. City match would be 20%.
8. **Sports Complex Study**- Doug Potts provided the Sports Complex Study from PCGA.
9. **ARPA SBEP/SBRD Success Stories**- Doug Potts stated he does not have any stories in writing yet but has requested for them and will bring back next month. All funds are encumbered.
10. **Special Events**
 - i. Back to School Extravaganza at WHS parking lot- August 19th- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 - ii. Patriot Day Festival- September 9th- 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - iii. A Community of Heroes- September 11th- 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 - iv. Hogs and Frogs- September 22-24, 2023
 - v. Pumpkinfest- October 28, 2023

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting will be held on September 11, 2023, at 5 p.m.