

HARRIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REGULAR SESSION

March 14, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Craig Greenhaw, Harry Boyd, Rob Grant, Chris Butzon, Charles Sweat. Members Absent: Tommy Wright, Meghan Guenther, Mark Smith. Staff Present: Andrea Dzioba, Recording Secretary.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**. Chairman Greenhaw called the meeting to order.
2. **PRESENTATION**. Mr. Ryck Morales of the Small Business Administration (SBA) addressed the members of the Development Authority and informed the Development Authority that after a weather event like earlier in the year that FEMA is a business owner's first option; that the SBA can provide another alternative to insurance through low interest loans; that although Harris County wasn't impacted that he wanted to provide information and knowledge should there be future events; that the deadline was March 16, 2023 for physical damage to businesses; and that there may be other options available if there were economic damages.
2. **MINUTES**. The motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Session was made by Mr. Sweat, seconded by Mr. Boyd, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Update on Northwest Harris Business Park Project**. Chairman Greenhaw brought the Development Authority up to date on the project. He stated that the road was roughed in, most of the land had been graded, and the detention pond was complete. Chairman Greenhaw informed the members that the road should be going in soon. He also advised that there was a potential client that had expressed interest and that there was another possible business from overseas that may be a possibility as well.
 - B. **Economic Development Position**. Chairman Greenhaw advised that the Development Authority has the funding and agreement with the County. He stated that there is another upcoming meeting related to Economic Development and that they seem to be headed in the right direction and will continue to move forward.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Update on Economic Development Discussions**. Chairman Greenhaw and Mr. Sweat informed the members that the group is working on a strategic business plan and vision; that it was a productive meeting; that it was important to pause and develop a policy; that Dr. Bridges' group is leading this and has the resources; that it is expected that there will be a strategic plan in 4-6 weeks that will enable an economic development person to succeed; that the plan needs to be easily communicated; that there needs to be a plan of action; that growth will be promoted where it needs to be; that the economic development position will be for promoting more than just the business park; and that the next meeting of the group will be on March 27, 2023.
 - B. **Impact Fees**. Chairman Greenhaw informed members that impact fees will have an impact on industrial customers and would deter new business. Mr. Sweat stated that the 10-year tax abatements helped attract businesses and now those businesses now generate revenue that is greater than whatever would have been brought in if they were charged impact fees instead.
5. **ADJOURNMENT**. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Prepared by:

Craig Greenhaw, Chairman

Andrea R. Dzioba, Recording Secretary