



Minutes from February 28, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
Palestine Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors

Attendance Record:

Larry Weber, Alan Herrington, Ben Campbell, Charles Drane, and Stuart Whitaker.

PEDC & City Staff Attending: Gayle Cooper, Economic Development Director; Terry Johnson, Economic Development Project Manager; Mary Raum, Tourism and Marketing Manager; Rachel Nichols, Events Coordinator; Michael Hornes, City Manager; Jim Mahoney, Finance Director; and Teresa Herrera, City Secretary.

Regular Meeting – 11:30 am

A. Call to Order: 11:32 am

The Palestine Economic Development Corporation reserves the right to convene into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed on this agenda as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations and Security Devices) and 551.087 (Economic Development) to wit:

B. Establishment of Quorum: Quorum met with five of seven PEDC Board members present. Michael Page and Linda Dickens were absent.

C. Public Comment: - None

D. Board Report – An opportunity for members of the Board to relay activities participated in and comments received regarding economic development during the past month.

- The Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce has over 132 new members and they are holding their social mixer tonight, February 28th at Vera Bank to support the new members and existing membership of The Chamber.

E. Consideration and Possible Action Concerning:

Minutes from PEDC Regular Board Meeting conducted on January 17, 2019 and Special Meeting on February 18, 2019 – Ben Campbell made motion to accept both sets of minutes, seconded by Alan Herrington; motion carried.

Financial Reports for January 2019– The motion to approve January 2019 financials was made by Alan Herrington; seconded by Stuart Whitaker; motion carried. One budget item is missing; the hospital demolition still needs to be added to the financial report. Larry Weber requested the comparison sales tax report from Finance Department.

F. Directors Report

Introduction of New Main Street Manager: Rachel Nichols – The PEDC is working on the budget and payroll questions to make the new position part tourism and part Main Street.

Recap of events and activities – Mardi Gras on Main Street was a partnership with Main Street Advisory Board and PEDC. Mary will provide a report during our meeting.

Report on Conference – Michael Hornes and Gayle Cooper attended the TEDC legislative conference in Austin where they established allies for PEDC.

Letter from PISD – PISD Superintendent Jason Marshall requested PEDC support with our Texas legislators concerning financial allotment of public education assistance. Gayle Cooper will write a letter of support on behalf of PISD and public education funding.

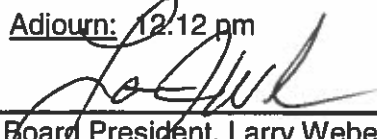
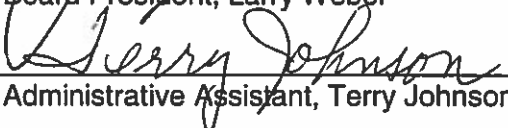
Other items – PEDC office is in the process of learning about insurance on our building at 200 Vista Ridge and will report back to the Board when we have information. Larry Weber requested we check with TML to learn whether City of Palestine has insurance coverage on the building.

Our status on grant payments has paid only \$13,000 thus far. The grant money spends are in a budget year, followed by the grant money payments in the following year. This means PEDC will need an amended budget for our projects. For example, \$100,000 came from our downtown budget to pay for Erickson Trucking deal. Gayle plans to request \$80,000 seed money for a longer airport runway. We need long runways to attract corporate clients to our area. This means our Municipal Airport will apply for grant funds in the future. All grants requested for downtown projects have been approved by City Council. These approved projects include: Mollard Properties for \$39,459, Palestine Chamber of Commerce for \$3213, and Shuffler Properties for \$75,000.

Tourism & Main Street – Tourism is working with the Dogwood Festival, now called the Dogwood Arts and Music Festival. This festival has activities over three consecutive weekends beginning March 23d.

Mardi Gras on Main Street was a low budget, successful event. One hundred shopping bags were handed out for Main Street shopping. Forty-six visitors came to the Visitor Center that day. Since the event started at 2 pm with food samples and cooking demonstrations, and each restaurant venue started their demos every hour, there was time for attendees to shop in Main Street businesses. We had four restaurants participate: Red Fire Grille, Eilenberger's Bakery, Farris' Wings and Wraps, and Old Magnolia. The Mardi Gras Parade was well attended with bead and candy throwing to the crowd, and 15 golden egg giveaways by local businesses. Prize value ranged from \$10 to \$100.

G. Adjourn: 12:12 pm

	3-21-19	12:33 pm
_____ PEDC Board President, Larry Weber	Date	Time
	3-21-19	12:33 pm
_____ PEDC Administrative Assistant, Terry Johnson	Date	Time



11