

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF ANDERSON §
CITY OF PALESTINE §

The City Council of the City of Palestine, Texas convened in a Joint Meeting with Palestine Economic Development Corporation on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 11:30 a.m., at Red Fire Grill in the Redlands Hotel, 400 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present:

City Council: Mayor Steve Presley; Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell Jordan; Councilmembers Larissa Ray Loveless, Vickey L. Chivers, Joe Baxter, Dana Goolsby, and Ann Connor.

PEDC: Larry Weber, Linda Dickson, Ben Campbell, Michael Page, Charles Drane, and Stuart Whitaker.

Others present: PEDC Director Gayle Cooper, City Manager Michael Hornes, City Secretary Teresa Herrera, Public Works Director Tim Perry, Communications Officer Nate Smith, County Judge Robert Johnston, Chamber Director Michele Merryman, Rachel Nichols, Mary Raum, Greg Laudadio, and Terry Johnson.

SPECIAL MEETING

With a quorum present Mayor Presley called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mayor Presley welcomed the attendees. PEDC Director Cooper welcomed the group to Red Fire Grill and provided reasons for hosting the meeting at the Redlands Hotel: best of restaurants, extensive funds spent on renovations, located in the Main Street district, and a major tourist attraction. Councilmembers, PEDC Board members, and guests introduced themselves. The focus of this meeting will be centered in the downtown area.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY/PEDC ACTIVITIES

Update of economic development activities were presented. Also, there is no property tax money going to PEDC; PEDC is funded by sales tax revenues. Downtown business owner need to be committed to repairing their buildings.

Downtown Infrastructure Rehabilitation

PEDC is collaborating with the County and the City to make downtown improvements. There are 44 blocks in Main Street; the focus is to work and fund one block at a time. Infrastructure improvements will be made from Spring to Crawford Street and Sycamore to Queen Street. Water and sewer lines were installed in the 1800's; many pipes need to be replaced.

Retail

PEDC Director Cooper informed that she is working towards attracting national retail to the community and PEDC will do an economic impact analysis to attract new businesses to Palestine.

Housing

PEDC Director Cooper informed that with the wealth index, the average household income is \$67,000 in Palestine. PEDC is working with developer to bring additional housing.

Discussion regarding what quality of life Palestine offers to the lower income families was held.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2019.

Steve Presley, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Herrera, City Secretary

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