

CITY OF FREEPORT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
200 West 2nd Street, Freeport, Texas 77541

STATE OF TEXAS)
)
COUNTY OF BRAZORIA)
)
CITY OF FREEPORT)

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Freeport met on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the City Hall Conference Room, located at 200 West 2nd Street, Freeport, TX, for the purpose of considering the agenda items.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT: Quorum Present

Trey Sullivan – President
Mark Fruidenberg – Vice President
Ed Garcia
Mingo Marquez
Jeff Pena
Lesla Girouard
*Marinell Music arrived at 5:10

Jennifer Hawkins: Executive Director
Tim Kelty: Freeport City Manager
Chris Duncan: Attorney
Kenneth Green: City Council Liaison

Visitors in Attendance:

Nicole Mireles
Sam Reyna
David Towers
Ruben Renobzto

1. **OPEN SESSION:**

President Sullivan opened the meeting at 5:02 PM. A quorum was present.

2. **Welcome New Board Members**

President Sullivan welcomed Ms. Girouard as a new member. It was noted by President Sullivan that Ms. Girouard and Ms. Music were previously appointed by the City Council and sworn into their position. It was further noted by Mr. Duncan that both were authorized board members with voting authority.

3. **Citizens Comments:**

President Sullivan announced the opportunity for any visitors present to address the board. There were no citizen comments.

4. **Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2018 and January 17, 2019:**

MOTION made to accept the minutes by Mr. Marquez, Seconded by Mr. Garcia. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

5. **Consider payment of bills:**

Ms. Hawkins presented and explained itemized bills. Discussion regarding the bill from Catalyst, Wells Nursery, Duncan, and reimbursement to Freeport for wages paid to Hawkins.

It was noted that Catalyst had not submitted an invoice yet. Mr. Pena requested that the matter regarding Catalyst be put on a future agenda and considered by the Board. Payment of funds to Catalyst was tabled for future consideration.

MOTION to pay the bills presented, excepting Catalyst was made by Mr. Pena, and Seconded by Mr. Marquez.

Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

6. Executive Session

President Sullivan announced the Board will retire into executive session as noted on the agenda. Guests and Ms. Hawkins were excused. Mr. Kelty was invited to attend Executive Session.

Open session closed at 5:31

Executive Session commenced at 5:32

After discussion in executive session, Ms. Hawkins and was invited to join executive session, for further discussion.

Executive Session ends at 7:17

7. Open Session

Open session commenced again at 7:18. Guests were invited back into the meeting. Ms. Hawkins remained in open session after her participation in executive session.

8. Employment Action Taken

It was announced that the Board was unable to reach a suitable 60 day probationary plan for Ms. Hawkins to continue as the Executive Director.

MOTION made by President Sullivan to immediately suspend Ms. Hawkins with pay, from her position as Executive Director of the Freeport Economic Development Corporation, and to grant Mr. Kelty, the City Manager of Freeport the authority to take action regarding Ms. Hawkins' employment including but not limited to voluntary or involuntary termination and determine such terms of separation including possible severance or continuation of benefits.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Pena.

Motion **PASSED**, with members, Sullivan, Fruidenberg, Garcia, Marquez, and Pena voting for the motion, and members Girouard and Music abstaining.

9. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION made by Mr. Marquez to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Garcia. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

President Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Duncan
Corporation Attorney