COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES January 9, 2020

The Commercial Development Authority (CDA) of the City of Jacksonville met on January 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Complex, 911 Public Safety Drive for a Regular Meeting. Chairperson, Andy Green called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. The following members were present: Josh Carlegis, Bruce Edmiston, Andy Green, Jason Sumner, and Mike Hindman. Others present were: City Clerk, Brenda Sandoval.

Adoption of Minutes.

A motion to adopt Minutes from November 22, 2019 was made by Jason Sumner, seconded by Mike Hindman. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Bank statement dated 12/31/2019 was read by City Clerk, Brenda Sandoval and made part of the minutes. Current balance is \$ 17,521.10. Two checks cleared, Heirloom Taco & Mike Hindman. City Clerk, Brenda Sandoval presented the FY20 annual disbursement check from the City of Jacksonville in the amount of \$10,000.00. It will be signed tonight and deposited into the account on January 10, 2020.

Business Appreciation:

Bruce talked with Awards to Remember and brought a sample of a plaque for the Business Appreciation idea. Plaques start at \$25.00 and that size is what the group decided to go with, with gold writing, the seal of Jacksonville at the top, and presented by the Commercial Development Authority (CDA) at the bottom. Discussed type of business to give plaques to (meets brick and motor criteria). Want this to be a new business recognition to welcome the business to the City. Request lists of new businesses in the city for 2019 and what has opened new so far this year, 2020. Motion to approve Welcome New Business, recognition of new businesses when they open by the City and the CDA made by Mike Hindman, seconded by Jason Sumner. Upon vote of the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. Motion carried.

For current businesses, discussed doing another type of appreciation recognizing those businesses that have been in business. Will need to come up with criteria for this award and decide who to give to and how often. What are these businesses doing for the City? Requesting list of all businesses in the city for members to look over. Motion for Existing Business Spotlight made by Mike Hindman, seconded by Jason Sumner. Motion to table Existing Business Spotlight made by Jason Sumner, seconded by Bruce Edmiston. Upon vote of the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. Motion to table carried.

Heirloom Taco's ribbon cutting is on January 24, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. Would be a great start for the Welcome New Business plaque to be presented to them at their ribbon cutting. Motion to purchase plaque to present to Heirloom Taco made by Jason Sumner, seconded by Mike

Page **1** of **3**

Hindman. Upon vote of the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Rent Subsidy:

Andy Green started discussion on the rent subsidy idea. Still have some holes that he feels need to be plugged in before moving forward with this idea. He would like this to hopefully get in to place within the next 30 days or so and then they could go back and allow any business who qualifies from January can be included if needed.

Bruce Edmiston wants to go on record saying that if we start doing stuff that is subjective, we leave ourselves open to criticism. He believes it is best to have it cleaner, simpler & more defensible and only allow new businesses.

Discussion into how it will be determined who qualifies. The business owner must give reason as to why they are having to expand. Members feel that the businesses must at least be given an opportunity to make a case for expansion. It is on the owner to put everything on the application that they deem helps them qualify for the Grant and then it will be up to the members of the CDA to review the applications and make an informed decision based on the information that the owners have given.

How to divvy the money-so much per applicant or decide the amount per year and split between the qualifying applicants? Andy Green likes the idea of allocating a fixed amount for FY2020 but will it be based on first come first serve or split between all who qualified? Need to come up with a number of how much we want to allocate for the fiscal year and have amounts for the applicant showing that if they qualify they would get at least this dollar amount but no more than that dollar amount. Josh Carlegis recommended doing this like the Façade Grant. Have the applicant show on the application how they plan to spend the money and throughout the year they turn in invoices showing how much they spent and on what and then at the end of the year they are reimbursed the amount that was allocated for that business.

Does the CDA want to leave out people who don't have rent but need help with things like equipment, software, etc to help grow their business? Helping a business expand does not stop with rent. Possible need to retitle to Business Development Grant so that any business who wants to expand can show good reason as to why they need the Grant and have the opportunity to have help with whatever expenses they may have.

Some members requested that we agree to have a longer meeting or possibly have a special meeting to just discuss this topic. Would like to get to a point where the CDA can move forward and present this to the public. Bruce Edmiston stated he counted and there are 7 empty buildings on the square and it would be great if this could help fill some of those with businesses.

Any Other Business:

Agreed to meet again on Thursday, February 13, 2020, 5:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Complex, 911 Public Safety Drive.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hindman, seconded by Jason Sumner. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Brenda Sandoval, City Clerk

Andy Green, Chairperson

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