

# City of Dripping Springs Economic Development Committee

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 4:00 PM

**In attendance:** Kim Fernea, Susan Kimball, Becky Atkins, Robert Avera, Rex Baker, Russell Collins, Whit Hanks, Council Member Sherrie Parks

Staff, Consultant in attendance: City Administrator, Michelle Fischer and City Attorney, Laura Mueller

Community member in attendance: Ashley Tullis

## AGENDA:

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: City Attorney, Laura Mueller, presented a Legislative Update.
  - a. Same report that is on file was presented to Council.
2. CHAIR REPORT, Kim Fernea
  - a. Superintendent Holly Morris-Kuentz has been invited to join this committee. She should be appointed by Council soon.
  - b. In April, Council adopted a resolution declaring a need for a regional housing authority and entered into an agreement with the Texas Housing Foundation.
    - i. Dave Edwards will be invited to attend our meetings to provide reports and progress on this effort.
3. CITY COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORT: Council Member Sherrie Parks  
July and August, 2023
  - a. Board of Adjustment unanimously denied a variance for 249 Sportsplex Dr to allow a reduction in the parking requirement (medical office space requires more parking spots)
  - b. Council unanimously approved reappointment of Kim Fernea, Becky Atkins, Melanie Fenelon and Whit Hanks, and the appointment of Lucy Hansen to the EDC; and the appointment of Kim Fernea as chair.
  - c. Council unanimously approved a lease agreement for a wastewater plant expansion at Arrowhead Ranch.
  - d. Proposed ad valorem tax rate was set at .2098 specifically for the purpose of giving council time to make decisions on the budget. This is not the final adopted tax rate for the 2023-2024 year.
  - e. A budget amendment was passed to replace the fixtures and bulbs in the DSRP arena due to falling bulbs.
  - f. Council approved an Eclipse Display at Veterans Memorial Park. This display will be a large mock-up set of Eclipse glasses to serve as a photo spot and advertisement for the October and April eclipses.
  - g. Dripping Springs Ranch Park will be hosting an ice rink for the holiday season, Dec. 7 – Jan. 7. This ice rink will be like the one in Bee Caves and will be a great family activity.
  - h. Roger Hanks Parkway between Hwy 290 and RR 12 opened the week before school started. Per Aaron Reed: “I am hearing good news that the traffic is much better on 290. There has been a significant backup at the intersection of Roger Hanks and RM 12 with vehicles trying to make the left turn to go North on RM 12. We have requested a warrant study from TxDOT to see if a signal is warranted at that location. The signal has already been designed by Heritage and the donation agreement with TxDOT is nearly complete.”
4. TIRZ PROJECTS REPORT: Vice Chair Susan Kimball
  - a. Old Fitzhugh Rd is full steam ahead - currently working on engineering and drainage plans

5. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT REPORT: Committee Member Robert Avera
  - a. Closed on E Mt Gainor property, and will eventually co-locate with ISD
  - b. ESDI-Driftwood on Hwy 150 – will house EMS & fire
6. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT, Vice Chair Susan Kimball
  - a. Luncheon was today with over 100 attending. Topic was Chat GPT for business
  - b. Leadership Class 7 will be kicking off soon

Next Meeting: September 27, 2023 at 4:00 PM