
TIRZ BOARD MEETING

October 19, 2017

Minutes

Members Present: Mr. Kelly Young~ Chairman
Mr. Robert (Stormy) Higgins ~ Vice Chair
Mr. Charles Black
Mr. Sam Vinson
Mr. Ben Grant

Staff Present: Mr. Robert Hanna, City Manager
Mr. Taurus Freeman, Interim Director/Planning and Development Services
Mr. Zack Rainbow, Planning Services Manager
Ms. Kelley Messer, First Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Melissa Farr, Administrative Secretary

Others present: Mr. Doug Peters, President and CEO/Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Bruce Kreidler, Councilman

Item One: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Basement Conference Room of City Hall.

Item Two: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Grant moved to approve the minutes for July 20, 2017, and Mr. Vinson seconded the motion. The vote was approved by five with none in opposition.

AYES: Higgins, Black, Vinson, Grant, Young
NAYS: None

Item Three: Agenda Items

- a. Discuss TIRZ program marketing efforts

The Board discussed their desire to reach out to any new economic development projects upon learning of them. Staff provided the Council Update Report to the Board, and board members discussed this tool as a way to reach out to upcoming projects.

- b. Discuss potential TIRZ funds uses

Mr. Hanna shared his ideas with the Board and provided explanations to help clarify the roles of City Staff and the TIRZ Board. The Board will review and provide recommendations for valuable

projects and steer City Staff in the process. The recommended projects will then be presented to City Council, and Council will provide direction for the funding of that idea. Mr. Hanna stated he envisions the hotel planned for Downtown Abilene as a primary project, which will be a good use of funds in using the revenues. He asked the Board to consider the new hotel as a primary focus.

c. Financial Report for TIRZ #2

The financial reports have been added to the website for all Board members and the public to review at any time.

d. Discussion regarding the legal authority of the TIRZ board

Ms. Kelley Messer provided everyone in attendance with a legal memorandum, which explained the legal authority of TIRZ under Texas Tax Code Chapter 311.

e. Suggest items for future agenda

After discussions took place in regards to the importance and priority of the hotel project, Mr. Hanna confirmed there is no need to meet as a Board until there is a specific project to present to City Council. Otherwise, the Board should plan to meet on an annual basis to review and discuss the status of financial reports.

Mr. Black moved to cease further actions and no longer meet on a quarterly basis until guided by City Council and the hotel project. Mr. Higgins seconded the motion. The vote was approved by five with none in opposition.

**AYES: Higgins, Black, Vinson, Grant, Young
NAYS: None**

Item Four: Adjournment

The TIRZ meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Approved: _____
Chairman

