



## **MINUTES**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

### **City of Ames Economic Development**

April 24, 2025

President Kimberly Judge called the regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the City of Ames, City Hall Building.

#### **Attendance**

Roll call was taken and the following Directors were present:

President- Kimberly Judge, Vice President/Director-Reggie Rollins, Secretary/Director- Giovanni Stewart, Treasurer/Director- Jerry Reescano, City Council/Director-Eddie White, Director -Anthony Landry, and Director- John Bennett.

Director Barbra Lange was absent.

Advisors: Kimberly Kidd and Renell Strauss were present.

#### **Approval of Board Agenda**

A motion was made by Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins to consider the agenda for the meeting. The motion was second by Director Anthony Landry, vote was taken, and the agenda was approved.

#### **New Business**

- A. Consideration of the agenda.
- B. Approve minutes from April 03, 2025, meeting
- C. Discuss past activities of the board.
- D. Discuss future agenda items.
- E. Comments
- F. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins to approve the minutes from the April 03, 2025 meeting. The motion was second by Director Anthony Landry, vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

President Kimberly Judge opened the meeting by providing background information on herself. She confirmed her position as president. She informed the board that she has been in municipal government for about 30 years. President Judge stated that she does like to serve and helping her community.

President Judge asked for feedback from the board. She wanted to know what or if anything has been accomplished since the board had been existence. Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins told her nothing that he knew of at this time. It has been meetings of a lot of conversation. Director Anthony Landry said that he second with that statement. President Kimberly Judge said that she knew that there had not been a lot, due to waiting of the 501C3. That this number is needed to start seeking grants. She stated that that the EDC not having any funding, is a big issue. She informed the board that it is hard to serve the community without a budget. President Kimberly Judge did inform the board that she was told that we do not have a budget is because we did not enact a tax; based on the commercial or retail developments that we have in Ames. Treasurer/Director- Jerry Reescano acknowledged that statement, and the board agreed.

President Kimberly Judge asked the board to think about ways of how we would go about raising money. Director Anthony Landry asked President Judge if she could provide the other functions of the development board. President Judge stated that our job is to basically raise the economic development of our community. We are the help that should be bringing it up. The biggest thing that we should be doing is looking for the best ways to uplift the community. One of the best ways to do that is to look for business that could come to Ames. One of doing that is to offer incentives. A lot the times we maybe competing with other communities to get different businesses or industrial facilities. She stated that there is a lot of land that is close by and if we had incentives; we could ask people to incorporate to our city limits. Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins stated that there are no incentives in Ames. President Judge informed the board that since we don't have a 501C, there still maybe opportunities for us to start getting properties. President Judge gave the board a copy of the Local Economic Development Guidebook. She asked if we had a copy of the bylaws. Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins informed her that the former EDC President Emmett Albro was working on them. President Judge stated that she

would look for them and try to have copies for the next meeting. President Judge told the board that we needed to start thinking about how to raise funds. She asked about some goals and ideas for fund raising. Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins suggested a Zydeco. President Judge informed the board that she has done one in the past in Dayton, and it was successful. Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins suggested an outside concert with some artists from the area or has close ties to Ames. Advisor Kimberly Kidd suggested a quarterly concert series, with different music genres. Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins said the other thing would be a location. Advisor Kimberly Kidd asked if the funds raised would be used for community outreach. President Judge stated that it could be used for community outreach, incentives, to put a City of Ames sign up, and so many different things. Director John Bennett suggested a TV raffle. Advisor Kimberly Kidd suggest a wagon, with different bottles of different liquor. Maybe it could be used during the holiday season. One of the ways to selling tickets for the basket at the Raywood Catholic Church Bazaar. President Judge said that she would like to find a way to assist and make sure that there is proper amount of water and sewer capacity. She stated that the first thing a proper business is going to as is if the utilities are available for them to have a successful business. Director Landry asked since we have the city with the sewer, and the water with a separate private system; how would the EDC work with those two. President Judge said that we would need to work with the water department, find out what their needs are. For example, if we raise money, maybe that money can be used to assist them with a new water tower. They of course would be leading their project, but we would be there to support them. We would do the same for the City of Ames with their sewer. Director Landry mentioned that there are grants that the water department can't get unless they are working with the city. Treasurer/Director Reescano stated that with him being on the water board, he knows that they are making progress on getting another water tower. President Judge stated that it is so important that we work with other agencies. The EDC is not here to take over, we are here to support. Advisor Kimberly Kidd asked if there could be some type of forum set up so that we could speak to the water board. In order find out their numbers and the capacity of residents that they could provide services to. Maybe a car dealership could donate a car. President Judge stated that she would be following up on the 501C status. Director John Bennett stated that he may know someone that could donate a new car. Advisor Renell Strauss suggested that the vehicle could be electric and that maybe Ames should investigate having a charging station right off Highway 90. Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins mentioned the past idea of the bus system. City Council/Director Eddie White said that maybe something that we could move forward on now that there is an EDC in place to come to the council with good idea. President Judge asked if anyone had a map of the available properties in the area. Director Landry asked how she would define available properties. President Judge stated that if they are vacant

and possibly for sale. Advisor Kimberly Kidd told her about the previous idea of the city acquiring property via eminent domain. She said that we never got an update on if the first round of letters were sent out. President Judge asked if the board knew if the property owners were ever contacted. That would be the proper first step, before talking about eminent domain. Treasurer/Director Reescano asked if there were any updates on the TXDOT project on Hwy 90. He asked if we could proceed with our projects, without knowing what they are going to do to the roads. President Judge stated that she would reach out to TXDOT, because there was supposed to be a part of Hwy 90 that was not going to widen. There was an area that they said that could not do, and she was not sure if it was Ames. So, it would be widened in certain area, and then go back down. Treasurer/Director Reescano stated that there was a temporary fix for the bridge work they were doing too. Director Bennett asked how soon we were looking at putting the fundraiser together. President Judge said that she wanted us to work on the timeline during the next meeting. We can layout timelines and responsibilities. President/Director Reggie Rollins asked if we had to present fund raising ideas to the City Council, and he was told no. He was told that they would be informed. Objectives for the next meeting are how to move forward with the ideas for the Zydeco and raffle.

All EDC proposals are confidential.

## **Reports**

No Reports

## **Announcements**

President Kimberly Judge or Secretary Giovanni Stewart will contact the Board members prior to the scheduled meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

May 29, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

## **Adjournment**

6:40 PM-A motion was made by Director Anthony Landry to adjourn the meeting. The motion was second by Vice President Reggie Rollins, a vote was taken, and the meeting was adjourned.

The minutes dated April 24, 2025, have been read and approved by the EDC Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Giovanni Stewart", written over a horizontal line.

Giovanni Stewart, EDC Secretary

A handwritten date in dark ink, reading "05/29/2025", written over a horizontal line.

Date