



MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

City of Ames Economic Development

May 29, 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, Directors -Anthony Landry, Barbra Lange, and John Bennett.

Advisors: Kimberly Kidd and Renell Strauss were present.

Mayor-Barbara Lee Domain was present.

Approval of Board Agenda

A motion was made by Director Anthony Landry to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2025 meeting. The motion was second by Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins, vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

New Business

- A. Approve minutes from April 24, 2025, meeting.
- B. Discuss and consider a fundraiser to purchase a marquee sign.
- C. Discuss and consider strategies and how the AEDC can assist the City of Ames.
- D. Discuss the City of Ames Higher Education Facilities Corporation Board
- E. Discuss and consider creating a brochure for the City of Ames and the AEDC.
- F. Comments
- G. Adjournment

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.

President Kimberly Judge informed the EDC that the City Council is looking for ways to communicate with the public. She told the EDC that the mayor is currently including newsletters in the monthly bills. The mayor is attempting to enhance communications with the public, but there are other ways to reach the public. President Kimberly Judge suggested a marquee sign to communicate with public. The sign would also be used during emergencies. President Kimberly Judge submitted examples of a single- and double-faced sign. The mayor did confirm that if the EDC did raise money for the sign, the City Council would assist with the cost of the sign. President Kimberly Judge told the board that she did apply for a \$2500 grant from Centerpoint Entergy. She said that she did so based on the city emergency needs. Information would be provided for road closures, acts of nature, and evacuations due to emergencies. A grant application for safety measures has been submitted and is awaiting approval.

EDC explored options like raffles with donated items (TVs, liquor baskets, Yeti coolers) to raise funds. Advisor Kimberly Kidd told the EDC that she is in the process of researching the raffle tickets for our projects. How much to charge and working on the types of items. The EDC agreed to hold quarterly raffles throughout the year, focusing on specific themes and holidays. Advisors Kimberly Kidd and Renell Strauss agreed to oversee each quarterly raffle to ensure effective coordination. Mayor Barbara Lee Domain discussed the need to establish a bank account for managing funds raised through raffles. Director Anthony Landry did inform the EDC that he would not contribute to the liquor basket but would participate in the other fundraisers. Mayor Barbara Lee Domain told Treasurer/Director- Jerry Reescano that she would meet with him, so that they could go to the bank to open the account. Treasurer/Director- Jerry Reescano proposed the idea of a Zydeco. He told the EDC that he did contact the Catholic Diocese and the only thing we would not be able to do is sell tickets at the Zydeco. We could do pre-sale tickets at the city hall. No tickets can be sold at the church. Director John Bennett then suggested that each member of the EDC pay \$25 each, to start seed money. The deadline for paying the \$25 was set for June 6, 2025. President Kimberly Judge informed the committee that the money from the raffles would also help with the expenses for the Zydeco. The EDC did decide that the first project would be a July 4th fireworks basket. Director Anthony Landry suggested a \$150 value for the basket. He suggested getting a possible donation of \$500 and baskets could

be divided accordingly. Possibly baskets for \$25, \$50, and so on. Advisor Renell Strauss will work with Mayor Barbra Lee Domain on the Quarter 3 fund-raiser July 4th project.

A motion was made by Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins to have quarterly raffles for fund-raising. The motion was second by Treasurer/Director- Jerry Reescano, vote was taken, and the quarterly fund-raising motion was approved.

President Kimberly Judge told the board that she also wanted to find ways for the EDC to assist the city. Ways the Economic Development Corporation can assist the city, focusing on goals and objectives. Some ways would be to review public management pages to identify areas of focus and potential projects. She provided the EDC with Public Management goals to consider. Explore the possibility of establishing a higher education facilities corporation board to facilitate various initiatives. Addressing the food and community needs. The potential impact of SNAP benefit reductions and the importance of addressing food insecurity. Mayor Barbara Lee Domain suggested the possibility of partnering with the Houston Food Bank to establish a food pantry. Secretary/Director- Giovanni Stewart asked about any efforts of local organizations in providing food assistance to the community. Board agreed to read over the information that was provided, so that the implementation plan could be discussed at the next meeting.

President Kimberly Judge provided information for the City of Ames Higher Education Facilities Corporation Board. She informed the EDC board members that the city council will be informed that the EDC board members would also serve as the Ames Higher Education Facilities Corporation Board. Director Barbra Lange discussed the potential impact of SNAP benefit reductions and the importance of addressing food insecurity. The committee decided to provide food for the community if it is possible to do so. The board explored educational opportunities and revitalization of education in Ames. Discussed the possibility of re-establishing a Catholic school in the community to provide educational opportunities. The board explored the potential benefits of private schools and the availability of government funding. Also, shared concerns about academic standards and the need for parental involvement in education. President Kimberly Judge told the board that the corporation is not just for education related projects. It can provide bonds and trusts, and she asked the board to read the information that was provided.

Final item of discussion was for the board to consider creating a brochure for the City of Ames. A draft of the brochure was provided in the meeting. President Kimberly Judge stated that the brochure could be used to enhance city promotion and attracting potential businesses. Some key information to include in the brochure, such as population data and transportation details. Also social, economic, and industrial element of our community.

These elements for our community verse the Liberty County. The board also explored the possibility of conducting a retail trade area analysis to identify opportunities for attracting retailers. Director Anthony Landry brought up the historical aspect of Ames.

Secretary/Director-Giovanni Stewart informed the board that her and Mayor Barbara Lee Domain recently visited the Black Wall Street Museum in Tulsa. The idea of a museum was discussed for Ames. A motion was made by Vice President/Director Reggie Rollins to have continue the efforts of completing the City of Ames brochure. The motion was second by Director- Anthony Landry, vote was taken, and the quarterly fund-raising motion was approved.

All EDC proposals are confidential.

Reports

No Reports

Announcements

Secretary Giovanni Stewart will contact the Board members prior to the schedule meeting.

Next Meeting

June 26, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Adjournment

7:00 PM-A motion was made by Director Barbra Lange 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 May 29, 2025, have been read and approved by the EDC Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Giovanni Stewart". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Giovanni Stewart, EDC Secretary

A handwritten date in blue ink that reads "06/26/2025". The date is written over a horizontal line.

Date