



CITY OF GIDDINGS

Lori Diez, Chairman
John Dowell, Vice Chairman
Greg Strickland
Steven Ashan
Dana Lehmann
Jason Haas
Pratik Bhakta, Past President
Chamber of Commerce
Spencer Schneider, City Manager

Giddings Hotel Occupancy Tax Advisory Board

Giddings Hotel Occupancy Tax Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 7, 2024

1. Call to Order:

City Manager Spencer Schneider called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. with the following present:

Present: HOT Board Members, Greg Strickland, Steven Ashan, Dana Lehmann, Lori Diez, Jason Haas, John Dowell, Past President of Chamber of Commerce Pratik Bhakta.

Staff Present: City Manager Spencer Schneider, City Secretary Andrea Ray, Director of Finance Heather Garner, Library Director Jessi Akins. Mayor Joel Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem Alan Casey,
City Council Members: Linda Pruitt, Jacob Janda, Mark Muniz. Not present Kevin Rinn.

2. Discussion and possible action on appointments of Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

City Manager Spencer Schneider called for motion to appoint a Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

A motion was made by Board Member Pratik Bhakta and seconded by Board Member Steven Ashan to appoint Lori Diez as Chairperson and John Dowell as Vice Chairperson.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Board Members Strickland, Ashan, Lehmann, Haas, Bhakta

Nays: None

Chairperson Lori Diez Lori advised stated a time limit of 15 minutes to speak, then the Giddings Hotel Occupancy Tax Advisory Board will ask questions.

3. Consider approval of minutes from meeting held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Vice Chairperson John Dowell asked the City Secretary Andrea Ray to correct agenda item #2 delete two zero's and #6 to add a comma to the amount on the minutes.

A motion was made by HOT Board Member Pratik Bhakta and seconded by HOT Board Member Dana Lehmann to approve the minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: HOT Board Members: Strickland, Ashan, Lehmann, Haas, Dowell, Bhakta

Nays: None



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4. Review, discuss and possibly take action on requests for hotel tax funds.

Chairman Lori Diez stated the Giddings Hotel Occupancy funds collected for 2023 are \$250,000.00.

1. Giddings Library & Culture Center representative Jessi Akins made a presentation to the HOT Board and answered questions. Request: \$9,800.00
2. Giddings Fiesta representatives Ricky and Jessica Rodriguez made a presentation to the HOT Board answered questions. Request: \$5,000.00
3. Giddings Visitor Center representatives Kelita Thomas and Denice Harlan made a presentation to the HOT Board and answered questions. Request: \$231,510.00.
4. Lee County Sheriff's Posse representative and Mark Goodson made a presentation to the HOT Board and answered questions. Request: \$90,000.00.
5. Lee County Fair Association representatives Ryan Marshall and Tim Langham made a presentation to the HOT Board and answered questions. Request: \$75,000.00.
6. Texas Wendish Heritage Society representative Katy Kasper made a presentation to the HOT Board and answered questions. Request: \$8,500.00.

A motion was made by Board Member Greg Strickland and seconded by Board Member Pratik Bhakta to make a recommendation to Giddings City Council from the Giddings Hotel Occupancy Tax Advisory Board to distribute the following amounts:

Giddings Library & Culture Center-	\$ 9,800.00
Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce -	\$140,000.00
Lee County Sheriff's Posse -	\$ 68,000.00
Lee County Fair Association-	\$18,700.00
Texas Wendish Heritage Society -	\$ 8,500.00

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: HOT Board Members Strickland, Ashan, Lehmann, Haas, Dowell, Bhakta

Nays: None



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5. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson John Dowell and seconded by Board Member Greg Strickland adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: HOT Board Members Strickland, Ashan, Lehmann, Haas, Dowell, Bhakta

Nays: None

ATTEST:

John Dowell

Board Chairperson Printed Name

[Handwritten Signature]

Board Chairperson Signature

Andrea Ray

Andrea Ray, City Secretary

