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From: Patti Lack <pglack@suddenlink.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 2:34 PM

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Subject: Holding off funding Resolution 20:051 till January 2021

I hope this email is read to the viewing audience as if I was standing up at the podium during the City Council meeting.

It is a coincidence that Mark Young is making a special presentation today also.

Resolution 20:051

For the City of Jonesboro to enter into an agreement with the Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission for funding of Economic Development Services.

The attachment reads that the City will make one installment prior to 6/30/2020 for \$167,250.00 for economic services and \$227,500.00 for capital improvements.

The total being \$394,750.00!

I know that Mayor Perrin said in the Finance Meeting last week that we've funded this since that 1980's. In reading the email that I received from Mike Downing on April 29, it said that the NEAIDC was created by the city and county in 1968 and the city and county have provided funding since then.

I realize that the NEAIDC is one that affiliates with the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce and Jonesboro Unlimited to perform services of promoting economic and industrial development.

I viewed Mark Young's presentation to the City Council that was on July 18, 2019. The highlights of the presentation are:

1. When looking at his presentation, Mr. Young talked about the only new company that had come to Jonesboro and that was Delta Peanut. I read that they are expected or maybe already have started shelling during Spring of this year. Delta Peanut is expected to employ 125 people.
2. Ritter Communication was an existing company here in town and added a Data Storage Center. So I'm not sure what role NEAIDC played with their expansion?
3. Corinth Coca-Cola had continued growth and employs about 100 people. They will do well wherever they go!

4. Risever received Revenue bonds. That is one of the purposes of an Arkansas IDC and that they have the ability to issue federal tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds for manufacturing companies. So that is the part of the State of Arkansas IDC vs. NEAIDC.

Mr. Young said that they will hire 130 but it will take 3 years to get to that number.

5. The workforce development program is great for the 7th and 8th graders. I know that many of the schools have similar work programs. But with schools stopping after Spring Break, I assume that many students weren't able to have that opportunity from either the school or the NEAIDC.

I looked to see who is on the Board of the NEADIC. There are 4 committee members and they have been on this board since 2009.

When Mr. Young showed the overhead during this council meeting on July 18, I was truly disappointed and thought to myself and I remember many others did as well, and I can't imagine some of you also that during January -June 2019, the NEAIDC had:

15 Inquiries 4 Prospect Visits 26 Market Research Requests 16 Business Retention and Expansion

I didn't hear any number on business commitments. So if you divide 4 into 15 for the percentage of Prospects coming to visit Jonesboro- you get 26.7%, but NO commitment! I don't think that's a passing grade.

I just don't feel that we are getting a BANG for all those BUCKS! And that's alot of BUCKS- \$394,750.00

When you look at the state of our country and Jonesboro, people and businesses are in DAY 2 of possibly getting back to the new normal.

Several business in Jonesboro have been destroyed because of the tornado, and it will be up the them of whether they are going to build back or not- Without help from the NEAIDC.

Many businesses will not be reopening because of not being able to sustain the virus shut down- and that is all over our country, not just Jonesboro.

I saw that the unemployment rate for Jonesboro in March was 3.7%. I would imagine that it's higher in April.

I would like to consider postponing the funding for the NEAIDC until the beginning of next year, 2021. And then, evaluate the state of our city and decide whether the program is ready to get funded then or consider another funding another program.

As mentioned above the Chamber of Commerce and Jonesboro Unlimited will still be available to operate.

All of us need to and especially you, leaders of our community need to focus on getting citizens and businesses back to full swing and learn how to live and survive in the "new normal". There won't be many, if any new businesses that will be coming this year.

I realize that the funding was already in the budget for this year. But sometimes we have to stop and evaluate whether that is the best use of our City's money.

Thank you for your time and consideration of holding off the funding for the NEAIDC until January 2021.

Patti Lack