

AGENDA ITEM # 25September 29, 1998\*

Discuss and take appropriate action on agreement with Ann McMurray and Victims Assistance for use of county building in Liberty Hill.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM # 26September 29, 1998

Consider approving request from Georgetown Chamber of Commerce for Economic Development funds.

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce President Molly Alexander addressed the court requesting \$3,500.00 economic development funds to enhance their internet web site.

Moved: Commissioner Hays

Seconded: Commissioner Boatright

Motion: To approve request from Georgetown Chamber of Commerce for \$3,500.00 Economic Development funds.

Vote: Motion carried 4 - 0

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GEORGETOWN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September 29, 1998

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Georgetown Chamber  
of Commerce serves its  
membership by:

**PROMOTING** member  
businesses and responsible  
economic development

**PROVIDING** leadership in  
business and community  
activities

**COMMUNICATING** timely  
information on important  
matters

**CREATING** a forum for  
understanding, and  
articulating, member  
perspectives on key  
issues

Judge John Doerfler  
Williamson County Courthouse  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Dear John:

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce formerly requests \$3500 from the County's Economic Development Fund to help fund the expansion of our Internet web site.

Thank you for your support of our proposal and we look forward to enhancing the overall economic climate with this added tool.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Alexander".

Molly Alexander  
President

approved 9-29-98  
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Doerfler".

100 Stadium Drive  
P.O. Box 346 ~ Georgetown, TX 78627-0346  
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[www.gtwn-chamber.org](http://www.gtwn-chamber.org)

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### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND PROPOSAL**

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce is pleased to submit a proposal for funding through the County's Economic Development Fund. The Chamber, now in its 76<sup>th</sup> year of operation, is a progressive network of businesses and professionals dedicated to the responsible development of our community.

The Chamber, with its 535 members, works to promote responsible economic development. We have fifteen active committees working on critical issues that face our community. From urban design, to legislative affairs, small business development, and local transportation, the Chamber works with the entire community to help improve Georgetown and the surrounding area.

One of our working committees has been focusing on updating our Internet web site. Currently our web site provides information on the community, the chamber and our members. Realizing the need to expand our on-line services, our Internet committee has worked for over eight months evaluating our on-line needs. The committee has gathered the requirements to expand the site and validated those requirements by holding a series of community focus groups. The focus groups made up of local business owners, residents and prospective residents validated the new requirements and gave additional ideas for the site.

Now defined, our new web site will provide information not only to our Chamber members, but will also have features to lure new businesses to the community with an entire section dedicated to "business operations" that will include area demographics, small business development tools, job postings for local workforce needs, legal information, links to the county, city, school district, state agencies. In addition to business operations, we will have an area on "How 2s" for businesses. This section will be dedicated to information and links on how to start a business, operate or expand an existing business, as well as how to develop an effective marketing and business plan.

In addition to business assistance, our web site will also have relocation information for new residents. Currently, the Chamber mails over 1,500 relocation packets a year to new prospective residents. The new site will have all of the relocation information so that prospective residents can download the information at their convenience.

The Chamber is excited about expanding our services as well as important community information on the world-wide web. We plan to develop our site so as not to duplicate other Georgetown sites, but to provide information not currently offered and link to other applicable information.

The expanded web site will allow the Chamber more opportunities to communicate that Georgetown welcomes new businesses and is prepared to assist them as they relocate to the area, expand in the market or to be able to retain them in the community.

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**GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT DETAIL**

**WHO:** Chamber of Commerce Internet Committee Members: Gary Rogers (K-2 Software), Chairman; Brian Castleberry, Computer.Com; K.K. Cummings, Computer.Com, and Molly Alexander, Chamber of Commerce.

**WHAT:** Development of Internet Web Site - expansion and overhaul

**WHEN:** To Be Completed by Summer, 1999

**COSTS:** Design Costs - \$15,000(maximum, minimum \$5,000)  
Marketing Costs - \$ 3,000

**TOTAL COST** \$18,000 (minimum \$8,000)

**FUNDING:** The Chamber is looking to the County through the Economic Development Fund to receive \$3,500 to help develop this new Internet site. The Chamber will look to other private donors to help with the remaining design costs. The Chamber will budget for marketing costs that will be both in-kind as well as real expenditures.

Consider approving request from Florence Chamber of Commerce for Economic Development funds.

Florence Chamber of Commerce President William B. Wash appeared before the court explaining the need for the funds.

Moved: Commissioner Hays

Seconded: Commissioner Boatright

Motion: To approve request from Florence Chamber of Commerce for \$3,500.00 Economic Development funds.

Vote: Motion carried 4 - 0

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## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. BOX 201, FLORENCE, TEXAS 76527

September 25, 1998

The Honorable Judge John c. Doerfler  
County Judge of Williamson County  
710 Main Street, Second Floor  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

RE: Request for Economic Development Grant

Dear Judge Doerfler:

On behalf of the Florence Chamber of Commerce, please accept this letter as our application for Williamson County Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$3,500.00.

*approved 9-29-98*  
*John C. Doerfler*

The Florence area is growing as evident in the increased enrollment in the Florence School system. Two new businesses have come to Florence this year and two more are planning to open before the end of the year.

We feel we need to do more to publicize the Florence area. Should we be approved for the grant the money would be used to develop and publish a brochure and to erect stone signs on the south and north of town welcoming people to Florence. We estimate the following costs:

1. Brochures - - - - - \$6,000.00 for 4,000 copies
2. Signs - - - - - \$4,000.00 for two

The Florence Chamber of Commerce's primary source of income is Friendship Days, which annually brings in between \$6,000.00 and \$7,000.00. Over the past several years the Chamber has been able to set aside \$10,000.00 for the new Fire Station, which construction should start in early 1999. The Chamber also provides \$2,000.00 each year to the Florence Public Library and two \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors at Florence High School.

A longer range goal is to try to help in the renovation of the Florence City Park.