

Minutes
Meridian Economic Development Corporation Meeting
Monday, January 21, 2008
Meridian Civic Center
Meridian, Texas

President Mike Vanecek called the meeting to order and Marie Garland read the proof of posting. Members present were Don McMahan, Marie Garland, Claiborne Phillips, and Mike Vanecek. Also present were Evan Moore, Dennis Clark, Greg Garland, Todd Hyatt, Beth Stuart, Mary Beth McMahan, Jo Beth Vanecek, Sherry York, Ken Schrank, Kay Duke, Jimmie White and Sarita Ellis.

Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Garland and carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Financial Statement

Claiborne Phillips presented the financial statement to the members. Total balance for the month of December 2007 was \$157,895.52. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by Vanecek and carried to approve the financial statement as presented.

Introduction

President Vanecek introduced Sherry York to the members as a potential board member. Sherry has been a real estate appraiser since 1989 and has an office on Morgan Street in Meridian. She has served on the Grapevine MEDC.

Open Discussion

Members held an open discussion with the representatives from the various civic organizations. Members from the Meridian Public Library, Meridian Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Meridian Improvement Association, and National Championship Barbecue Cookoff were present.

President Vanecek explained to those present some of the projects that the Meridian EDC has funded including, signage, business promotion, library, BBQ Pavillion, cleaning up Meridian, playground equipment, expansion of water & sewer for future business growth. He explained that the MEDC was interested in purchasing some land for an industrial park. He explained that Meridian lost the shot at a new business, Shrimp Farm because another city was able to provide a building for the new business. Mr. Lawson has 35 acres that could be utilized as an industrial park. Approximate cost would be \$150,000.

Dennis Clark asked if there were any potential business that would like to locate there. Questions were raised concerning whether or not the MEDC could afford to purchase the land if there was no immediate need. Mary Beth McMahon stated that there needed to be some where for businesses to when they wanted to relocate to Meridian. She stated that there was a need for an industrial park.

Some of the other suggestions included off site cold and dry storage for Double B, parking, industry and how best to market Meridian.

Other questions concerning the industrial park included what was the benefit to Meridian, what is it generating for the economy and does it generate jobs.

The City of Clifton was discussed concerning them having more land to expand than in Meridian and that they have more marketing experience.

The MEDC asked for suggestions on how to best help businesses in Meridian. The Main Street Program was discussed.

Todd Hyatt suggested that the MEDC help to fund the Chamber of Commerce. The most pressing concern of the Chamber was the billboard on Highway 22 that was in disrepair. The owner of the property was concerned and wanted the Chamber to repair the sign.

Mary Beth McMahon stated that the Chamber of Commerce needed to correct some structural things before they felt comfortable asking for assistance from the MEDC.

Clifton's Main Street Program was discussed and the requirement of a full time manager.

President Vanecek asked if there was strong enough interest for an Industrial Park. Majority stated yes. There were still some reservations concerning the economic benefits to the community and providing facilities for manufacturing and who would actually own the property and building. There needed to be some parameters.

Chamber also talked about the development of their website and the links to the businesses in town.

New Business

Marie Garland reported that the Secretary of State's office sent a letter to the MEDC stating that they needed to file the periodic report and select a new registered agent. A motion was made by Phillips, seconded

by McMahon and carried to appoint Mike Vanecek as the registered agent for the MEDC.

Old Business

Marie Garland explained to the members that the state regulations required the city to approve all of the project and expenditures of the MEDC.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.