

MINUTES
MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING

Tuesday, February 19, 2008
6:00 p.m.

President Mike Vanecek called the meeting to order and read the proof of posting notice. Members present were Mike Vanecek, Don McMahon, Claiborne Phillips and Marie Garland. Also present were Ron Rieke, Byron Howard, and Evan Moore.

Minutes

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

Financial Statement

Treasurer Claiborne Phillips presented the financial statement. Total balance of all accounts was stated as \$165,199.63. A motion was made by McMahon, seconded by Garland and carried to approve the financial statement as presented.

New Business

1. Evan Moore, Meridian Public Library, presented their request for annual funding in the amount of \$2,500.00. The library needs funding from the city to be accredited each year. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by Phillips to approve the request of \$2,500.00 for the Meridian Public Library.

Open Discussion with Business Representatives

President Mike Vanecek opened the discussion with the business representatives. He stated the purpose of an economic development corporation was to utilize the sales taxes to promote Meridian, job development, business development and tourism. Many of the projects were listed.

He also discussed the possible purchase of land for an industrial development corporation. There were several factors to consider including financing, business development, ingress and egress and utilities.

Other concerns were the lack of a constant workforce, fixing up downtown and some of the blighted areas located on the outskirts of

town. There were also concerns of lack of training for employees and how the gas wells have drawn a lot of people out of Meridian. Mechanics and auto body shops were having a hard time getting and retaining employees. It was also stated that we needed to make it more economical to live in Meridian and have housing that doesn't cost too much.

It was asked if this community wanted growth? Do we want industry?

Old Business

2. Mike Vanecek opened discussion concerning the possible purchase of land for an industrial park. A motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Vanecek and carried to pursue the purchase of the land if the landowner still wanted to sell the property and the city would need to approve and to talk with the bank concerning financing.

3. Marie Garland asked the board to consider rescinding the motion made at the December 2007 meeting that stated that the MEDC would advertise for bids for a depository agreement. She stated that since several board members did not want to advertise for bids at this time, the motion needed to be rescinded. A motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Phillips and carried to rescind the motion to advertise for bids for a depository agreement made at the December 2007 meeting. Garland opposed that motion.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.