

MINUTES
MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING

Monday, September 22, 2008
6:00 p.m.

President Mike Vanecek called the meeting to order and Garland read the proof of posting notice. Members present were Claiborne Phillips, Larry Lawson, Marie Garland and Mike Vanecek. Also present were Paul Murray, Mary Beth McMahon, Evan Moore, and David Duke.

Public Forum – Paul Murray talked with the Board concerning the request for additional Christmas decorations. He stated that over the last two years he had been working on the decorations and had solicited donations for new decorations but was shut down by Mary Beth McMahon who wanted control over everything. He stated that we didn't need new decorations and he had repaired those that we had. He stated that was all he wanted to say. During the October 20, 2008, Don McMahon stated that Mary Beth McMahon did not shut down Paul Murray concerning the Christmas decorations, Paul Murray wanted complete control over all the decorations.

Minutes – Garland read the minutes of the previous meeting in June 23, 2008. A motion was made by Lawson, seconded by Phillips and carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of June 23, 2008.

Financial Statement – Claiborne Phillips gave the financial report for the last three months of June, July & August. The balance on hand was \$185,747.51 in all accounts including the certificates of deposits. After further discussion, a motion was made by Garland, seconded by Lawson and carried to approve the financial statement.

New Business

1. Mary Beth McMahon, Meridian Chamber of Commerce, asked the MEDC for consideration of funding for Christmas decorations in the shape of snowflakes in the amount of \$7,000.00. She suggested that we possibly use larger snowflakes out at the circle and at the County Seat Plaza due to the faster traffic speed. Members considered her request and asked questions concerning the remarks made by Murray during public forum. Murray again stated that they had seven Christmas trees, two lanterns and one candy cane. McMahon suggested that we have a continuity to the decorations instead of haphazard mixtures. She was looking into 18 snowflakes of one size or mix of large & small. She stated that the County was looking into some smaller snowflakes for the

courthouse and had talked with the Meridian Improvement Association for decorations on the wall at Hwy 6 & 22. Members asked about the bridge decorations and the problems with kids messing with them which caused countless repairs and whether or not they might be better served at the entrances of the each highway to the city. Vanecek mentioned that this request was at the extreme end of what the MEDC can spend and didn't want this to become an every year request. A motion was made by Lawson, seconded by Vanecek to recommend to the City Council the expenditure of \$5,000 to the Chamber of Commerce for Christmas decorations which would be reviewed by the City before purchase. Phillips voted against and Garland abstained due to the fact that she was involved in the request. The motion passed with the two votes out of the three voting members.

2. Members discussed the members that were up for renewal of their term. Marie Garland, Don McMahon, Mike Vanecek and the position held by Sherry York. Sherry already explained that she was living and working in the metroplex and could not complete the term nor be appointed to another term. Mike Vanecek and Marie Garland stated that they would like to be reappointed. Don McMahon would be visited by Lawson to see if he would like to be reappointed. Phillips, Lawson and the other empty seat terms would be up in September 2009. Members were urged to visit with others concerning being appointed to the board. Those three members and any others would be presented to the City Council for appointment to the board.
3. Members discussed proposed project and commitments of the MEDC for the fiscal year 2008/2009. Some of the those listed were the principal & interest for the purchase of the Commercial Park, the annual commitment to the Meridian Public Library and setting some aside for advertising for new businesses and new projects. Numbers would be developed by Garland and Phillips and presented at the next meeting.

Old Business

4. Members discussed the proposed sign for the Meridian Economic Development Corporation Commercial Park. Various signs and cost were viewed by the members. A majority of the members liked one sign over the others and it was mentioned that there needed to be contact information on the sign. Garland would contact Mr. Davis concerning the sign and additional information.

5. Members discussed the marketing of the MEDC and possible development of the website. We could link it to the City, County and Chamber websites. Members mentioned that we could put a map of the grounds on the site for development. Members also inquired about the possible relocation of the Bosque County Jail. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by Lawson and carried to approve the development of a website and promotion of Meridian.
6. Members discussed the possibility of obtaining grants for the utilities at the Commercial Park. Vanecek asked about the possibility of the city paying for the utilities. Garland stated that the city was strapped for funds and could not help this year. Garland mentioned that United Cooperative Services had already mapped out the electricity. Garland would contact Doug Hill, Atmos Energy concerning the possible connection to the transmission line going across the property. Grants would be investigated for the water and sewer.
7. Members received information concerning the declined short term loan for Double B Foods, Inc. Garland stated that Double B Foods, Inc. had been awarded the Texas Enterprises Project designation and would receive help with their upgrades. They declined the short term loan. She also advised them that Ron Bowlin was retiring as of October 1, 2008.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vanecek, seconded by Lawson and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Approved:

President

Secretary