

MINUTES
MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING

Monday, November 23, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Vice President, Larry Lawson, called the meeting to order and Garland read the proof of posting notice. Members present were Larry Lawson, Marie Garland, Claiborne Phillips and Don McMahon. Also present was MEDC Coordinator, David Duke.

Public Forum – No one was present for public forum.

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

Financial Statement – Treasurer, Claiborne Phillips, presented the financial report for the month ending October 31, 2009. It was suggested that Todd Hyatt, National Championship Barbecue Cookoff Committee, come to the next meeting and give the members a report on the Cookoff. After further review, a motion was made by Garland, seconded by McMahon, and carried to approve the financial report as presented.

Approval of Expenditures – Expenditures presented were a reimbursement to David Duke for \$100.00 for membership with the Texas Economic Development Corporation, payment to Economic Development Directory Publishing LCC for \$195.00 for text on the web site, and payroll to David Duke for \$552.00 less payroll taxes. A motion was made by McMahon, seconded by Garland and carried to approve the expenditures as presented.

New Business

1. Members discussed the resignation of Sidney Carlisle. A copy of the resignation letter is attached to the minutes for record. A motion was made by McMahon, seconded by Phillips and carried to regretfully accept the resignation of Sidney Carlisle. A letter of appreciation of her service would be written and signed by all the members.
2. Members discussed possible nominations of persons to fill the unexpired term of Sidney Carlisle. David Duke suggested that Michael Sharp had

one time expressed interest in being appointed to the board. A motion was made by McMahon, seconded by Phillips and carried to nominate Michael Sharp to the Meridian City Council if he so agreed.

3. David Duke, EDC Coordinator, discussed his ideas on a Business Retention and Expansion program. He stated that we had been concentrating on tourism but felt that we needed to do something for the existing businesses. What can we do for them? He stated that it was easier to grow existing businesses than replace them with new ones. If you retain them then others will come. He explained that he wanted to identify problems and concerns of the businesses and find ways to work with them. He explained that during the outreach process, you needed to develop a process to build trust with them, plan out your approach and plan your visits. He stated he would like to survey them conversation style on ways we can help them and start the process with introduction letters. All the members present agreed that it was a good idea and would like to see it implemented.
4. Members discussed the proposed revision to the 2010 Business Plan. David Duke explained that he added another objective to the business plan to develop and implement a strategy to identify and address the status, concerns, plans and issues of the existing businesses in and around the City of Meridian. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by McMahon and carried to approve the revision of the 2010 Business Plan as presented.
5. David Duke asked the members to consider the MEDC hosting a Meridian Issues Round Table. He suggested around nine people to be invited to the Round Table discussions and they would look over the opportunities, threats, strengths and weaknesses of Meridian. They could also suggest different areas of concern so that MEDC members could use them to develop new objectives for the new year. Members thought that it was a good idea.
6. David Duke reported to the members concerning his visit with Judy Fort, Texas Department of Agriculture. He stated that they had a great visit and went over the ideas concerning trying to help the existing businesses. He stated that she was a great resource and would help us in any way she could.

Reports – Larry Lawson suggested that we maybe meet on another day due to conflicts on Mondays for some of the members. It was decided to place that on the next meeting agenda with the possibility of having the meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Adjourn – There being no further business, a motion was made by Phillips, seconded by McMahan and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Approved:

Vice President

Secretary