

MINUTES
MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING

Monday, February 15, 2010
6:00 p.m.

President Mike Vanecek called the meeting to order and Garland read the proof of posting notice. Members present were Mike Vanecek, Claiborne Phillips, Marie Garland, Larry Lawson, Stephen Barnett and Don McMahon. Also present were EDC Coordinator, David Duke, Chamber President, Dan Markman, and Ray Miller.

Public Forum – No one wished to speak at public forum.

Minutes – Members reviewed the January meeting minutes and a motion was made by Garland, seconded by McMahon and carried to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Approval of Expenditures – Members first considered the payroll expenses for EDC Coordinator, David Duke. He remitted a time card for 66 hours at \$12.00 per hour, for a total of \$792.00 less FICA. He also remitted a reimbursement in the amount of \$118.95 for postage, envelopes and supplies. A motion was made by McMahon, seconded by Lawson and carried to approve both the payroll and reimbursement presented by David Duke, EDC Coordinator.

Old Business

1. Oaths of Office were given by Marie Garland to returning member Larry Lawson and new member, Stephen Barnett. Both were welcomed on the Board.
2. Members considered the approval of expenditures and reimbursement for the Hill College-Bosque County Project in the amount of \$19,295.17. Members had reviewed the bills presented and it was recommended that they be reimbursed. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by McMahon and carried to approve the reimbursement to Hill College-Bosque County Campus in the amount of \$19,275.17.
3. Members discussed the proposed EDC Business Retention and Expansion process. David Duke reported that he had the letter of introduction ready to be signed and would be binding the questionnaire that was to be presented. Members discussed the delivery process,

wondering if it would be better if David delivered the introduction letter in person and then set up a time for the questionnaire with each business for a later time. There were approximately 75 businesses and David stated he was trying to develop a good relationship with each of those. After the questionnaire was completed by the businesses, the confidential information would be summarized for use by the MEDC.

New Business

1. Members discussed the proposed request from the City of Meridian for repairs to the Senior Citizens Center. Ray Miller explained his estimate for the repairs which totaled \$23,251.00. Garland explained to the members that the City of Meridian Council did not even know about the request. A motion was made by Lawson, seconded by Garland and carried to table action on this item until the Council has a chance to look at the request.

Reports

1. David Duke reported on the MEDC Business Roundtable discussions. David reported that members of the Chamber, City, EDC and business owners met and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of Meridian and strategies to draw businesses and families to Meridian. Everyone that attended thought the meeting went well and some good suggestions were brought out for further discussion.
2. David Duke also reported that he was developing a business attraction strategy. These strategies included a list of twelve questions to answer concerning economic development in Meridian and other rural areas. These questions would be answered by different agencies including Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Economic Development Corporation, etc. By getting answers to these questions, we can develop an overall plan for Meridian.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Lawson, seconded by Phillips and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Approved:

President

Secretary

