

MINUTES
MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING

Monday, April 19, 2010
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, Don McMahan, Payton Wallace and Stephen Barnett. Also present was Dan Markman and David Duke, EDC Coordinator.

Lawson determined that there was a quorum present.

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

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

Financial Statement – A motion was made by Garland, seconded by McMahan and carried to approve the financial statement.

Approval of Expenditures – Members viewed the payroll for David Duke, EDC Coordinator. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by Wallace and carried to approve the expenditures for the month.

Old Business

1. EDC Coordinator, David Duke, gave an update on the Bosque County Law Enforcement Center (LEC) and the sale of the property for the LEC site. He informed the members that the Bosque County Commissioner's Court had not taken any action on the LEC and that they were going to allow it to be put on the ballot in November for the citizens to vote on. This put the sale of the property on hold until after the election.
2. Members discussed both the adoption of the Meridian Economic Development Strategy and the business proposal document to respond to leads and business recruitment. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by McMahan and carried to approve the MEDC Strategy.
3. Adoption of a business proposal document to be used with the business recruitment program. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by McMahan and carried to approve the business proposal document.

4. Members discussed the EDC Commercial/Business Park infrastructure. David Duke reported that he had visited with the US Department of Agriculture to understand their funding process and to identify funding for the infrastructure for the MEDC Commercial Park. He stated that there might be some funding for projects at the site and for business relocation expense. David also reported that contacts at the Small Business Center through McLennan Community College in Waco would assist with some issues of site development. He also stated that the architect for the Bosque County Law Enforcement Center was willing to draw up the utilities infrastructure for the park and cost estimates for placing the infrastructure in the property.

Executive Session – Texas Open Meetings Act Section 551.072 Deliberation regarding Real Property and 551.087 Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiations.

1. At 6:40 p.m. the members went into executive session and discussed the request from Double B Foods for financial assistance.

Open Session – Board moved back into open session.

1. At 7:00 p.m., the members moved back into open session and discussed possible action concerning the request from Double B Foods for financial assistance. A motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Phillips and carried that the MEDC could not bear all the risk on this financial request and that unless the performance agreement included those two items as discussed or any other risk sharing arrangement that the MEDC could not agree to the financial request.

New Business

1. Members discussed a request for assistance from the Meridian Lions Club for additional park equipment and repairs to the present equipment. The amount requested was \$3744.00. Meridian Improvement Association would be paying the other half \$3744.00. Members discussed what investment the Lions Club had in the project. No one was present from the Lions Club. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by Barnett and carried to table action on this item to receive more information from the Meridian Lions Club.
2. Members discussed a request for assistance from the Meridian Chamber of Commerce for signs in the amount of \$330.00. Meridian Improvement

Association would be contributing \$660.00 to the project for a total of \$990.00. The drawing of the signs was reviewed including the colors and wording. Discussion followed concerning the other signs that are presently on the outskirts of the city limits which looked a lot like the proposed signs. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by Phillips and carried to table any action on this item until further information was received concerning the placement of the signs in relation to the present signs.

3. Members discussed the resignation of Board Member Don McMahon. Members agreed that they did not want to approve the resignation because Don had been such a good board member. Garland regrettably made a motion to accept the resignation of Don McMahon due to the fact that he was moving outside the residence requirements to be on the board. This motion was seconded by Wallace and carried. Lawson and the others thanked McMahon for his many years of service to Meridian EDC and that he would be missed.

Staff Reports

1. Meridian EDC Business Survey – David Duke reported that he had about 45 surveys out and 18 had been returned. He stated that he was having a hard time getting some of the businesses to respond and that he felt if he could get 40 to 50 to reply he would be happy.
2. Economic Development Sales Tax Workshop – David Duke reported that he would not be attending the workshop in Abilene in lieu of a less expensive class in Waco in August.
3. HOTCOG Economic Development Board Annual Planning Session – David Duke reported that he had attended the annual planning session with HOTCOG for information purposes and he ended up participating with them and they adopted the MEDC approach in the responding to leads for businesses.
4. McLennan College Small Business Center – David Duke reported that the college had a small business center that will support individual businesses in business planning and MEDC in contacts for financing projects.

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