

MINUTES
MERIDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Monday, May 17, 2010

6:00 p.m.

President Mike Vanecek called the meeting to order and Garland read the proof of posting notice. Members present were Payton Wallace, Larry Lawson, Marie Garland, and Stephen Barnett. Also present were Weldon Hamilton, Johnnie Hauerland, and David Duke, EDC Coordinator.

Public Forum – Weldon Hamilton and Johnnie Hauerland visited with the members concerning their request for assistance with Lions Park on Highway 22, Meridian, Texas. They explained that they did not have the money to fix it like it needed to be fixed and the Meridian Improvement group agreed to pay half of the expenditures and Meridian Lions Club was asking the MEDC to pay the other half. They were asked if they were going to contribute any money to the project and they stated that they were going to do the painting and labor which came to about \$2000. They were asked about any fund raisers they planned on having to help pay for these items. They stated that they did not have any planned, just the labor and painting.

Oath of Office – New member Michael Sharp was not at the meeting.

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

Financial Statement – Garland presented the financial statement for Claiborne Phillips since he was absent to attend a funeral. A motion was made by Lawson, seconded by Barnett and carried to approve the financial statement as presented.

Expenditures

1. Members reviewed the staff payroll for the month prior. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by Wallace and carried to approve the staff payroll.

2. Members reviewed the request for reimbursement for mileage for staff. A motion was made by Garland, seconded by Barnett and carried to approve the reimbursement for mileage.

3. Staff presented a bill from Haley Olson, PC, for attorney fees incurred during contract negotiations. A motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Lawson and carried to approve the payment of the bills.

Old Business

1. Members discussed the status of the request from Double B Foods for financial assistance. Staff reported that their main investing group did not like some of the items in the proposed contract and had not replied since reviewing the contract. No action was taken on this item until future talks resumed.
2. Members discussed the EDC Commercial/Business Park and the development of the infrastructure (estimates for cost of Master Plan and estimate for development infrastructure development costs). David Duke explained that United Cooperative Services stated it would cost about \$14,000 to \$15,000 to get electricity on our land and Atmos Energy stated it would cost about \$53,000 to get a four inch gas line to the property. The water and sewer would need three to four bores across Highway 174. David also explained that the architects could give us better estimates in the development of a Master Plan for the property. The architects would charge up to \$8,800 for the development of the plan. A motion was made by Lawson, seconded by Barnett and carried to approve getting an architect to develop the Master Plan and cost estimates.
3. Members discussed the request for financial assistance from Meridian Lions Club. The development agreement was reviewed along with the cost of the project which was \$7,488. Meridian Improvement group had stated that would contribute half of the cost and the Lions Club was asking for assistance with the other half. Several questions were brought up concerning liability issues on the equipment, flooding, and insurance coverage. The project included new swings, replacement of some of the ride on toys and new barbecue pits. A motion was made by Barnett, seconded by Garland and carried to approve the project.
4. David Duke, EDC Coordinator, updated the members on the surveys that had been delivered to the business members and some of the ones that had been turned in. He reported that he had a 66% return rate so far and that an overview of the results should be made by the next meeting.

He stated that a summary of the survey would be used in our recruitment packages.

New Business

1. David Duke reported that he was doing some research into the financial tools available to assist in economic development on a local, state, and federal level.
2. David Duke also reported that he had visited with a representative from RIR Investments interests in building a hotel. They were looking into 50 to 60 rooms with a possible convenience store with fast food. He had not heard back from the representative.
3. David Duke reported that Hill College might want to apply for additional funding from the MEDC. He stated that they were applying for other funds and had received some grants, but felt that they may need more money.

Staff Reports

1. David Duke reported that he had met with representatives from United Cooperative Services to see if they had any interest in updating their 2001 Housing survey in Meridian. David stated that he felt that it needed to be done was asking them to pay for an upgrade of that study. It might be wise to wait until the 2010 Census was complete to plug into a new study. David also stated that there might be some undergraduates to assist in the study and that might help to lower the cost.

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

Approved:

President

Secretary