

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Bellville Economic Development Corporation**

The regular meeting of the Bellville Economic Development Corporation was called to order by David Ottmer at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2002.

Present were: Bruce White, Susan Jones, Kenneth Stein, David Ottmer and Jerome Peters. Though Gary Byrd and Wayne Browning were absent, a quorum was present.

Bruce White made a motion the Agenda be approved as posted and distributed. Kenneth Stein seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Suzanne Edwards reported she did not have minutes of the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting; they will be presented for consideration at the October meeting. Jerome Peters comment that the minutes were also not posted on the city web site were noted for the minutes.

Susan Jones reported two checks were received in the month of August. Approximately \$2,021.00 remains to be disbursed for the convention center project. The approved budget of \$125,000.00 has been published in The Bellville Times. A Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year 2001-2002 will be filed with the IRS in February 2003.

Kenneth Stein made a motion the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Bruce White seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item #6**

**Public Comment**

Barbara McCollum was present with four questions for the BEDC:

1. 1. Is it ethical or legal for a City Council member to recommend BEDC funds be disbursed? David Ottmer responded that Jim Bishop never votes, but abstains if there is any question of conflict with a specific project. He also stated that as Chairman, he does not vote unless there is a tie. Wayne Browning also serves as a member of the BEDC as well as serving on the City Council. Mr. Ottmer reported that the BEDC could be made up entirely of City Council members if they so desired.
2. 2. Is it a conflict of interest for Charley Smith to serve as an advisor to the City Council and the BEDC and also serve as the legal advisor for persons requesting funds from the BEDC? Chairman Ottmer responded that Mr. Smith has never influenced approval or disapproval of any BEDC grant. Jerome Peters questioned whether Charley Smith represented Dr. and Mrs. Johnson or the BEDC? Bruce White suggested this be discussed in a closed Executive Session. David Ottmer instructed the secretary such an Executive Session be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
3. 3. If there are conflicts of interest and they are wrong, what will be done to correct such conflicts? Susan Jones responded we need more input from the general public. Negative opinions are never expressed until after a grant is made.
4. 4. What evidence is there that the BEDC has improved Bellville's economy and should not be voted out? Mrs. McCollum expressed her opinion that over \$200,000.00 in tax dollars collected and expended by the BEDC have not increased business and, in fact, have resulted in a decrease or loss of business. Kenneth Stein responded by asking Mrs. McCollum what direction she would have the BEDC take? The BEDC did not exceed the annual budget on grant applications and has worked diligently to improve the grant application process and has limited the granting of future requests to twice a year so projects can be more fully considered and compared. He recommended she also bring her concerns to the attention of the City Council.

Mrs. McCollum thanked the BEDC for their time and consideration and closed her remarks with prayer.

## Agenda Item #7

### **Consideration of any Action Necessary and Related**

#### **to the Organization and Operation of a Corporation formed under Chapter 4B of the Economic Development Act of 1979, as Amended**

A revised application was received from the Boys & Girls Club of Bellville for a grant of \$20,000.00 to be used for program expenses for the year January through December of 2002.

A workshop to further study "Vision 2010" will be scheduled for the October meeting. Jerome Peters requested members highlight areas of particular interest or relevant topics for discussion. He will try to locate a CD containing information on "Vision 2010".

Jerome Peters stated the application notebook kept at the City Library was in shambles. He requested authorization to review the contents and reorganize the notebook.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Edwards

Recording Secretary