

**20 June 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes
Bellville Economic Development Corporation**

David Ottmer, called the Regular Meeting of the Bellville Economic Development Corporation to order at 4:05p.m., Tuesday, June 20th, 2006, in the Council meeting room at City Hall, Bellville, Texas.

Warren Scott offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Wayne Browning, Warren Scott, David Ottmer, Jim Freeman, and Allene Schmitt. Andrew Lienhard was absent. A quorum was certified. Executive Director Carolyn Gibson was present.

Motion was made by Wayne Browning, and seconded by Allene Schmitt, to accept the agenda as posted. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Wayne Browning to accept Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 18, 2006, and was seconded by Warren Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was given by Warren Scott, based on Balance Sheet, YTD Profit & Loss, and Bank Reconciliation. Balance in Checking Account as of May 31, 2006 was \$27,126.49. May Sales Tax Revenue of \$20,132.36 and Interest Income of \$93.46 resulted in total monthly deposits of \$20,225.82. Checks totaling \$83,372.54 were posted. Balance Sheet showed the following current Certificates of Deposit: Guaranty Bank- \$87,450.88, Wells Fargo- \$102,767.37, and Industry State Bank-(1) \$103,230.94 & (2) \$102,767.37. Total Current Assets as of May 31, 2006 are \$421,971.62. Interest earned on CD's for May was \$1,350.01. Outstanding bills totaling \$5,483.40 were presented for payment to: Bellville Chamber of Commerce of \$3,000.00 for Contract of Services for July, Carolyn Gibson for expense reimbursement of \$149.52, Bryan Pictorial Press/Eagle for advertising of Heritage Gathering- \$623.88, Houston Community Newspapers for advertising of Heritage Gathering- \$1,100.00, Jerome Peters to reimburse for CD purchased for BEDC from Austin Co. Appraisal District- \$50.00, and Charley Smith for legal fees of \$560.00. Motion to approve report by Jim Freeman was seconded by Allene Schmitt. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item #7
Public Comment**

Tom Bennett, owner of Rocking B Cowboy Supply spoke in support of Bellville's Annual Heritage Gathering (HG). He stated that the goal of the event was to promote & raise awareness of Bellville with the Cattle Drive. The HG Board of Directors is questioning whether the event is meeting the goals, and whether the event should continue. The number of people involved is down, there are limited resources, and the risk/liability/insurance cost factors are high. Mr. Bennett thanked the BEDC Board for their support in the past years. David Ottmer thanked the HG Board, and Wayne Browning thanked them and offered his assistance for future events.

**Agenda Item #8
Acceptance of any Grant Applications Presented**

There were none.

**Agenda Item #9
Consideration Action to Approve Grant Request from Bellville Golf and Recreation Club, 2423
Highway 36 North in Bellville, Texas**

David Ottmer explained that the Office of the Attorney General in Texas felt that the grant request from Bellville Golf and Recreation Club was not considered a "legal project" under HB2928. He noted that Carolyn and BEDC would assist BGRC in researching other funding opportunities. David Ottmer asked for a motion to take no action or deny the grant. Warren Scott made a motion to take no action on the grant by Bellville Golf and Recreation Club. The motion was seconded by Wayne Browning and carried unanimously. Wayne Browning suggested that the BEDC Board write a letter to the Bellville Independent School District Board explaining that BEDC couldn't fund the grant and asking for assistance from the school district.

Agenda Item #10

Consideration and Action to Approve Matching Funds for Community Improvement Grant thru H-GAC for \$25,000.00 for

Landscaping, Benches, Lights, Upgraded Electrical/Sound Wiring for Downtown Bellville

Carolyn Gibson provided the Board with an Introduction & Scope of the H-GAC Downtown Public Spaces Improvements Program, and informed the Board that H-GAC had a \$25,000.00 grant planned for Bellville's Downtown Improvements, and a \$5,000.00 grant for Trees for the same project. She asked BEDC to match the \$25,000.00 grant with 4B funds for the improvements to the Downtown area. County Judge Carolyn Bilski and Carolyn have been working on the grant application and need the commitment of funds for the matching grant. Lynn Roberts, City Administrator has committed to "in-kind" contributions for the labor and concrete to set the new lights and place the benches around the Square. Allene Schmitt asked if there was a 60 day waiting period for these funds. David Ottmer responded that there was a waiting period on any 4B project. Jim Freeman made a motion to match the \$25,000.00 grant, which was seconded by Wayne Browning. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #11

Committee Reports and any Related Action

Jerome Peters, Chair of the Business Opportunity Development and Land Acquisition Committee provided a summarized report of the committees activities to date. He reported that the committee's next meeting would be June 21st.

Agenda Item #12

Executive Director's Comments

Carolyn Gibson reported the dates for the 4B Sales Tax Training for the remainder of 2006. The Directors will contact her with the date they want to attend the training. She also provided copies of SB 286 requiring Open Meetings Training for elected or appointed public officials. The course is available online, and Allene Schmitt has completed that course. Carolyn gave a brief synopsis of the ARCIT Rural Regional Legislative Summit she attended in Caldwell June 19th. She noted that Bellville was used as an "example" in several of the presentations. She gave updated information on the grant request from the Austin County Fair Association, that they had received a \$13,000.00 grant from LCRA for the air conditioning repairs; therefore they only needed \$67,000.00 to replace the roof. Carolyn provided information on the Certified Retirement Community Program thru the Texas Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Division, stressing the potential for bringing retirees to Bellville and promoting tourism. Carolyn shared an email from Gary Brown of Seacon Advanced Products, and the May 2006 Sales Tax Revenue reports from State Comptroller's office. She reported that LCRA has expressed a desire to submit Bellville for the 2005-2006 CEDA Awards given by the Texas Economic Development Council.

Allene Schmitt offered her assistance with the TEDC/CEDA application, and gave a summary of the WorkSource report from H-GAC. She was appointed to the Work Force Board by Judge Bilski to represent Austin County. She passed out work force "report cards" and stated that the consensus of the Board is that education is the key to a workforce that will attract Economic Development. Wayne Browning asked how often the "report cards" were distributed, and Allene answered every year.

Carolyn distributed information from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Small Business Administration, Texas Association of Business, copies of the BEDC web page, and the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers across Texas. The Chamber has received requests for brochures from 8 of the 12 centers. Carolyn requested the BEDC pay for the design and printing of 50,000 rack cards for distribution to the Travel Centers and for other needs, such as travel and trade shows, seminars, and events. Jim Freeman made a motion to fund up to \$2,500.00 on double sided rack cards to be designed by Jerry Olson Designs. Motion was seconded by Warren Scott and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #13

Questions and Comments from Board of Directors

Wayne Browning asked if any new information was available on the LSG Sheet Metal grant. David Ottmer stated that there was no update. Allene Schmitt asked when Pop's Café on the Square would open for business. Carolyn answered that they were planning around the 1st of August. Warren

Scott asked if there was any action taken on vacation for Carolyn. He asked that it be included on the next meeting agenda.

Agenda Item #14
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Browning and seconded by Allene Schmitt. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10p.m.

Carolyn Gibson for Allene Schmitt, Secretary