

David Ottmer called the Regular Meeting of the Bellville Economic Development Corporation to order at 4:00p.m., Tuesday, November 27, 2007, in the Council meeting room at City Hall, Bellville, Texas.

Warren Scott offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

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

Motion was made by Angela Franks to accept the agenda. Motion was seconded by Allene Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 5

Consideration and Action to Approve Minutes of the Previous Regular Meeting

The minutes of the regular meeting October 16, 2007 will be approved at the December meeting. A voting quorum was not present.

Agenda Item # 6

Consideration and Action to Approve Treasurer's Report

At the request of Treasurer Warren Scott, Carolyn Gibson gave the Treasurer's Report. The report was based on Balance Sheet, YTD and Profit & Loss Statements, and Bank Reconciliations for October 2007. Balance in FNB Checking Account as of October 31, 2007 was \$28,607.17. October Sales Tax Revenue of \$14,156.03 and Interest Income of \$42.45 resulted in total monthly deposits of \$14,198.48. Checks totaling \$28,112.63 were posted. Balance in Wells Fargo Money Market Account as of October 31, 2007 was \$67,061.58, with an interest payment of \$149.06. Balance Sheet showed the following current Certificates of Deposit: Guaranty Bank- \$93,672.77, Industry State Bank- \$101,265.31, and Wells Fargo- \$31,349.36. Total Current Assets as of October 31, 2007 are \$321,956.19. Motion was made by Allene Schmitt and seconded by Angela Franks to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7

Consideration and Action to Approve Payment of Outstanding Bills

Outstanding bills totaling \$7,502.19 were presented for payment to: Bellville Chamber of Commerce of \$4,500.00 for Contract of Services for December, Texas Firehouse Trophies of \$50.00 for Auto Magnets, Austin County Appraisal District of \$50.00 for ARC Viewer CD of Austin County, Austin County Fair Association of \$750.00 for Convention center rental for State German Society Convention, TEDC of \$150.00 for Sales Tax Training for Carolyn Gibson, \$977.78 for Tourism Promotion to: Houston Community Newspapers, Columbus Banner Press, Wallis News Review, New Ulm Enterprise, Fayette County Record and B/CS Eagle, Carolyn Gibson of \$454.97 for mileage and expense reimbursement and \$569.44 for Wells Fargo Visa for copier ink and expenses. Interest earned on CD's for October was \$975.09. Motion was made by Allene Schmitt and seconded by Angela Franks to pay the outstanding bills as presented. The CD at Wells Fargo Bank matures December 17th. Carolyn will check rates at all banks for CD's and Checking Accounts and report to the Board at the December meeting.

Agenda Item # 8

Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item # 9

Acceptance of any Grant Requests

There were none.

Agenda Item # 10

Committee Reports and Any Related Action

There were none.

Denise Haugen arrived at this time.

Agenda Item # 11

Consideration and Action on BEDC Project for Lighting in Mini Park

Carolyn Gibson presented a request to the Board to continue the lighting project for the downtown area. She reported that LCRA had turned down the grant request for the Mini Park lighting project. She will apply again in January for the next round of LCRA grants and will also contact H-GAC regarding another Downtown Spaces grant. The Mini Park Project would include replacing the existing lights with the same lights that were used on the Square, a bicycle rack, pet station, and picnic tables. The benches are already in place. An estimated cost of \$45,000.00 for the project was presented to the Board for their approval. Angela Franks made a motion to fund the entire cost of the project, not to exceed \$45,000.00. The motions was seconded by Warren Scott and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 12

Consideration and Action for BEDC Skateboard Park Project

Carolyn Gibson introduced Dempsey Averitt to the Board. Dempsey and a group of skateboarders have been attending City Council meetings for several months and have been working with Carolyn on a plan for a skateboard park in Bellville. He told the Board that there were 30-40 skateboarders in the Bellville area and they had nowhere to skate. They have gotten tickets for skating in parking lots and on the street. Brenham held a skating competition the preceding weekend and over 100 skaters participated. They've met with local architect Jim Bishop, who drew a plan for a covered skating area. Dempsey said that the drawing was much more than they expected or needed, and stated that the tennis courts behind the old Bellville High School would be an ideal location. Angela Franks asked how many skaters were in Bellville. Dempsey replied 50-100 with 30 skating on any given day. Allene Schmitt asked if the park would be multi-use. Dempsey said yes, with roller blades, scooters, BMX bikes and skateboards. Warren Scott asked how many would be able to skate at the park in Jim Bishop's drawing and Dempsey answered 20-30. Denise Haugen applauded the efforts of the young people present, stating that they were doing an excellent job of addressing City Council and the BEDC. Carolyn reported to the Board that she and Lynn Roberts had been working together to find available land owned by the City to locate the park on, and that the price of the equipment could range from \$5,000.00 to \$60,000.00. Angela Franks made a motion to proceed with research and pricing for a BEDC Skateboard Park Project. Motion was seconded by Warren Scott and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 13

Consideration and Action to Review Attorney's Letter Regarding B&W Construction Grant Request

Mr. Gerry Williams was present to speak on behalf of B&W Construction. President Ottmer asked if Mr. Williams had received a letter from BEDC's attorney, Jeff Moore. Mr. Williams had not. President Ottmer read relevant excerpts from copy of letter from Jeff Moore to Mr. Williams. Denise Haugen stated that the attorney based his opinion on statutes, not on the presentation that BEDC heard from Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams stated that he would wait for the letter and reserved the right to review the letter before any further comment was made.

Agenda Item # 14

Executive Director's Comments and Any Related Action

Carolyn Gibson presented Board members with information on the November 2007 Sales & Use Tax Revenue for Bellville & Austin County, an article on Bob & Gary English's Biodiesel refinery in Sealy, a copy of the article on the history of BEDC written by David Emswiler for the Bellville Times, the schedule for Small Town Christmas, an article on the partnership of the Texas Workforce Commission and the local

workforce development boards. She reported that she had attended Austin County Commissioners Court November 19th when they adopted a resolution in support of the Colorado Valley Transit Job Transportation Project and another resolution in support of the Texas Yes! Grant application for Heritage Gathering in Bellville, and Dates to Remember from the Chamber. She also reported that the Blinn Small Business Development Center was producing an “Entrepreneur’s Guide to Starting a Business in Bellville” and asked for input on the project from the Board. The SBDC is doing this at no charge to BEDC.

Carolyn told the Board that the City of Bellville was turning on and repairing the Christmas lights on top of the downtown buildings. City Administrator Lynn Roberts had asked if BEDC would pay for any lights that needed to be replaced or repaired. Allene Schmitt made a motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 for lighting. Motion was seconded by Angie Franks and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #15

Questions and Comments from Board Members

Allene Schmitt reported on the Texas Workforce Conference she attended in Houston, stating that the education for career and technology was at the forefront of the discussion. The COG’s, EDC’s, Cities, Junior Colleges, Independent School Districts, and Workforce Boards were all working cooperatively to increase job training availability. She mentioned the concept had been very successful in Liberty with the Liberty County Workforce Academy.

Warren Scott asked President Ottmer if the BODFLA Committee had met and what their scope was. Mr. Ottmer stated that there had not been a recent need for the Committee to meet, but they would be involved with any future land purchases by BEDC.

David Ottmer reported on the H-GAC County Planning meeting he attended, stating that one of the main points was the importance of dedicated “Green Space” for commercial and residential development in the Houston Galveston Area, that this is becoming the norm.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Angela Franks made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Allene Schmitt. President Ottmer adjourned the meeting at 5:19pm.

Carolyn Gibson, Recording Secretary