

David Ottmer called the Regular Meeting of the Bellville Economic Development Corporation to order at 3:30p.m., Tuesday, March 18, 2008, in the Council meeting room at City Hall, Bellville, Texas.

Wayne Browning offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

Present were: Wayne Browning, Delwin Rettig, David Ottmer, Monte Byrd, Allene Schmitt, Angela Franks, and Denise Haugen. A quorum was certified. Executive Director Carolyn Gibson was present. President Ottmer welcomed new Board Member Monte Byrd.

Motion was made by Angela Franks to accept the agenda. Motion was seconded by Denise Haugen. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 5

Consideration and Action to Approve Minutes of the Previous Regular Meeting

Allene Schmitt made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting February 19, 2008. Angela Franks seconded the motion with all voting yes except Monte Byrd who abstained.

Agenda Item # 6

Consideration and Action to Approve Treasurer's Report

Carolyn Gibson gave the Treasurer's Report. The report was based on Balance Sheet, YTD and Profit & Loss Statements, Bank Reconciliations, and General Ledger for February 2008. Balance in FNB Checking Account as of February 29, 2008 was \$47,446.62. January Sales Tax Revenue of \$23,442.96, Interest Income of \$117.95 resulted in total monthly deposits of \$23,560.91. Checks totaling \$62,678.36 were posted. Balance in Wells Fargo Money Market Account as of February 29, 2008 was \$67,544.84, with an interest payment of \$95.19. Balance Sheet showed the following current Certificates of Deposit: Guaranty Bank- \$94,716.74, Industry State Bank- \$100,331.18, and Wells Fargo- \$31,836.59. Total Current Assets as of February 29, 2008 are \$341,875.97. Carolyn explained the difference between the February EOM General Ledger balance and February Bank Statement balance, on the First National Bank account, noting outstanding checks and checks clearing that were written in previous months caused the difference in the balances. Motion was made by Wayne Browning and seconded by Allene Schmitt to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #7

Consideration and Action to Approve Payment of Outstanding Bills

Outstanding bills totaling \$51,155.29 were presented for payment to: Bellville Chamber of Commerce of \$4,500.00 for Contract of Services for April, Association of Rural Communities in Texas of \$350.00 for annual dues, Techline of \$44,999.00 for 17 street lights as part of the Community Improvement Project- Phase II, and Carolyn Gibson of \$706.29 for mileage and expense reimbursement. Interest earned on CD's for February was \$726.74. Carolyn presented the Board with an advertising cooperative opportunity for Bellville with Sealy CVB for a Compass Card Program, noting that the \$500.00 requested was a small portion of the total project cost of \$4,395.00. After discussion it was decided that Carolyn would contact Peggy Spradley and ask for Bellville's website, phone number and lodging be listed on the card. Motion was made by Angela Franks to pay the bills presented with the exception of the Compass Card. Compass Card Program will be Ok'd by email approval after Carolyn gets answers to questions and emails Board with the results. Motion was seconded by Allene Schmitt. Delwin Rettig suggested that the motion be amended to state "a majority of all Board

Members". Angela Franks amended her motion which was again seconded by Allene Schmitt and passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 8
Public Comment**

There was none

**Agenda Item # 9
Acceptance of any Grant Requests**

There were none.

**Agenda Item # 10
Election of Officers and Any Related Action**

David Ottmer presented the Board with a proposed slate of officers, announcing that all had been contacted and had agreed to serve as officers of BEDC. Angela Franks made a motion to elect David Ottmer as President, Wayne Browning as Vice President, Denise Haugen as Secretary, and Allene Schmitt as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Wayne Browning and carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item # 11
Consideration and Action Regarding Pop's Café on the Square's Letter of Non-Compliance**

Preston McNeely, owner of Pop's Café on the Square, thanked BEDC for their patience and assistance with Pop's and the support shown by BEDC during their time of financial difficulty. He stated that intended to maintain the building for the benefit of the community and an asset on the Square, and that they intended to continue to operate as a restaurant, but that didn't work out. McNeely reported that several prospects had looked at the building, both to lease and to buy, but they were looking for someone with the experience and capability of making the restaurant work. McNeely had good news to report- Pasquale Richardi, owner of Pasquale's in Round Top would be partnering with the McNeely's in an Italian restaurant called "Richardi's". He reported that the McNeely's would have ownership in Richardi's as a limited liability corporation, and that LLC would be leasing the building from Pop's for 2 years, with a 3 year option. They plan to be open by May 1st for lunch and dinner, Tuesday thru Saturday, and offer Sunday Brunch. They will not serve breakfast. McNeely asked for BEDC to consider extending the contract after amending it as necessary. They intend to live out the contract and keep the asset going for the community. He then thanked the Board for their consideration.

Angela Franks asked what the total investment was for refurbishing the building. McNeely stated \$200,000.00.

Denise Haugen asked if Pasquale was still in business in Round Top. McNeely said yes, for 2 years, and before that he had been at Carol's at Cat Spring, and had over 30 years experience as a chef, executive chef, and restaurant manager.

Allene Schmitt asked what date Pop's Café on the Square closed. McNeely consulted with Carolyn, and they both agreed that it was December 10, 2007.

Delwin Rettig asked that since the deal was done, would it be better to wait on a decision by BEDC. McNeely responded that BEDC would have to make that decision, but the important thing was to get the doors open.

David Ottmer reported that BEDC's attorney had been contacted, and said that it would be ok to amend the contract.

Wayne Browning stated that he had no problem with continuing the contract with the McNeely's. Delwin Rettig suggested that the McNeely's needed to know exactly what the mechanics were from BEDC.

Denise Haugen made a motion to table any action, abating any action to amend the contract until May 20th, and that McNeely report the status of Pop's Café on the Square at each BEDC meeting until then. Delwin Rettig seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #12
Committee Reports and Any Related Action

There were none.

Agenda Item # 13
Executive Director's Comments and Any Related Action

Carolyn Gibson presented Board members information on an advertising proposal from the Bryan/College Station Eagle. She asked if BEDC could be the Presenting Sponsor for the Summer Fun section, as they did in 2007. She reported a cost of \$2,275.00 that would reach over 25,000 households and allow advertising of Bellville and Austin County events from April until August of 2008. Allene Schmitt made a motion to approve the expenditure which was seconded by Angela Franks and passed unanimously.

Also presented to the Board was: new telephone/address list of the current BEDC Board, a Career Fair April 16th in Katy, information from the Office of Rural community Affairs, Association of Rural Communities in Texas, and the 42nd Texas Legislative Conference in New Braunfels March 28th. She asked who would be attending the workshop- David Ottmer, Allene Schmitt, Angela Franks, Denise Haugen, and Carolyn Gibson will attend.

The Sales and Use Tax Revenue Report for February 2008 was presented, showing an increase in Bellville's receipts over 2007 of 16.14%, and Carolyn gave a brief report on the LCRA facilitated Annual Board Strategic Planning Retreat held by the Chamber on March 15th. She asked if she could plan a "Basic EDC Course, Board Workshop, and Strategic Planning Session" for BEDC, again facilitated by LCRA, at no cost to BEDC. The Board agreed, and all were available for May 7th from 8:00am until 4:00pm. Carolyn will confirm with LCRA. City Council will be invited to attend the workshop. She reported that the City of Bellville and BEDC had been awarded a \$15,999.00 grant from LCRA for the lights in Phase II of the Community Improvement Project, which would allow BEDC to do more than just the light portion of the project. Information was given to the Board on nanotechnology in Texas, workforce training, and upcoming dates for their calendars from the Chamber.

Agenda Item # 14
Questions and Comments from Board Members

Delwin Rettig asked if the Joint Workshop with City Council would still be held May 20th. Carolyn reported that she would make sure that City Council also had the date reserved and that she and Lynn would handle all the arrangements for lunch and meeting notice postings. Wayne Browning thanked the Board for electing him Vice President, stating that he took the position very seriously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Wayne Browning made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Angela Franks. President Ottmer adjourned the meeting at 4:37pm.

Carolyn Gibson, Recording Secretary