

Agenda
Regular Meeting
Bellville Economic Development Corporation

Date of Meeting: July 9, 2015
Time of Meeting: 5:00 P.M.
Location: Council Meeting Room, Bellville City Hall
30 South Holland St., Bellville, TX 77418

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge
2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum **Present: Pat Burns, Monte Byrd, Paul Jones, Clark McKinley, Bruce Harrison, Danny Jacob. Absent: Bob Buckner. Quorum certified.**
3. Consideration and Action to Approve the Agenda as Posted **Motion to approve by Mr. Jones. 2nd by Mr. Harrison. Motion approved unanimously.**
4. Public Comment (3-Minute Remarks of Speakers who have completed Sign-in Sheet) AND Receipt of Grant Applications. **Linda Niehuus represented the Chamber of Commerce. Suggested the EDC join the Chamber. Also spoke in favor of a Quiet Zone.
Torrey Coffey also expressed support for a Quiet Zone.**
5. Questions and Comments from Board Members (discussion is limited to statements of policy or statements of factual matters, or the request that a matter be placed on the next meeting's agenda). **None**
8. Consideration and Action as needed on presentation by Quiet Zone Technologies on Railroad Quiet Zone. **Item 8 moved up to accommodate large number of guests. (Presentation by Robert Albritton, CEO of Quiet Zone Technologies on speaker phone, with accompanying presentation on computer screen.) Mr. Albritton went over the basic rules of establishing a Railroad Quiet Zone. The rules are set by the Federal Railroad Administration. The rules require that a train horn be sounded at least 15 seconds and no more than 20 seconds from a crossing. But if acceptable modifications are made, the train horn can be banned from a Quiet Zone. The FRA, railroad, and all public agencies with control of the crossings such as the City, State and County must be involved in the decisions.**

Mr. Albritton set out the options. The first is the Supplemental Safety Message options (SSM). They include putting a raised median at least 6 inches high, extending from within 1 foot of the crossing gate, out to a minimum of 100 feet. Also allowed is a channelization median, which is a plastic strip bolted to the concrete, with high visibility plastic panels on top, also extending 100 feet. The third is a Wayside horn installation, which replaces the train horn with a horn at the gate which is targeted directly at incoming traffic. Mr. Albritton showed a sound contour

map comparing the Wayside Horn decibel impact with the train. Under normal train horn usage, the 100 decibel area extends approximately 2 blocks to either side of the tracks, and the 90 db. area extends from 6-10 blocks either side of the track, for a distance of about a quarter mile either side of the crossing. By contrast, the Wayside Horn has a 90 db area concentrated on only the intersection, with an 80 db area extending just down the block for a much smaller soundprint. The final option is a Quad Gate, which is a four gate system covering the entrance and exit lanes across any crossing.

If there is insufficient space for any of the above, Alternate Safety measures may be used, but this would require an application and review process by the FRA. The SSM may be installed by the City without applying to the FRA.

Mr. Albritton then showed how the FRA calculates whether improvements to an intersection make it eligible for a Quiet Zone. There are a variety of factors including traffic count, average speed of the trains, and number of tracks. Each intersection is already in the Federal database. To qualify, the score at each intersection must be less than either the national average safety score, or the score of the intersection with Train Horn sounding. He then showed how the various SSM's would lower the score to qualify.

Mr. Albritton then outlined the approximate costs of each of the SSM's. The channelization would be approx. \$12-15 thousand for each intersection. The raised medians would run approx. \$20-40 thousand each. The Wayside Horn averages \$120 thousand. Quad gates can cost between \$300 to \$500 thousand dollars. Mr. Albritton then went through the options for each Bellville crossing, showing pictures.

The first is at Hacienda St.. There appears to be sufficient distance between the tracks and the parallel streets to install either channelization or medians. There is a question of whether trucks that use the intersection would have sufficient width to come through with either channelization or a median, but both are an option there.

The next is at East 3rd st (across from Brookshire Bros). There is not enough distance between the road and the tracks for channelization/median. The options there would be a Wayside Horn or Quad gate. Or the crossing could be closed. Mr. Albritton says if the crossing were to be closed, the BNSF railroad might pay the City to close it.

Next is the Main St./159 crossing. The state would have to be involved because it is a state highway. There is insufficient distance for channelization. Either a Wayside Horn, or Quad gate would be needed.

Fourth crossing is at Glenn Street. Also insufficient distance for channelization/median.

Final crossing is at FM 1456. There is insufficient distance to Centerhill road for channelization/median. Intersection is also out of City Limits in the County, so would need County approval as well.

Mr. Albritton said that any intersection within a quarter mile of another in a Quiet Zone must be included in the Quiet Zone. Each of the named intersections is at least a quarter of a mile away from each other. Because of that, a rolling Quiet Zone could be implemented, with each intersection built as money becomes available.

Mr. Albritton then outlined the services he could provide as a consultant. Various questions were asked from the audience. In response to these, Mr. Albritton stated he knew of no litigation against cities that had installed Quiet Zones, that the speed of the trains would play a role in calculating the crossing score, that he didn't know of any cities which had worked with the railroad to lower train speeds as part of a Quiet Zone, and that his consulting report would include a projected sound print map of a Wayside Horn at each of the intersections that would be appropriate. He also didn't know of any specific outside grants that were available.

Mr. Albritton stated his company had worked with Sealy to install the Quiet Zone there, and that we could go there to see how the various options worked.

Mr. Burns made motion to request a consulting bid from Quiet Zone Technologies. Mr. McKinley 2nd. Motion approved unanimously.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting held. Mr. Jones motion to approve minutes, Mr. McKinley 2nd. Motion approved unanimously.**
7. **Consideration and Action to Approve Treasurer's Report, Payment of Outstanding Bills, and Investments. Mr. Jacobs presented report. First CD 400391 with a balance of \$109,624.60 will mature at FNB on July 27. It is recommended that the CD be rolled over. Total Current Assets are \$706,910.49. Sales tax income for the month was \$22,890.25. Bills presented for payment were: \$95.35 & \$50.71 to City of Bellville for utilities, \$580 to Glasco & Co. for montly lawn maintenance, \$362.80 to Bellville Times for notices and Visitor's Guide Ad, \$250 to Austin County Fair for Facebook ads, \$87.33 to AT&T mobility, \$540, \$162.15, \$92.97 and \$59.47 to Renee Sullins for Marketing Contract Hours, Mileage reimbursement, Marketing reimbursement and Office supplies reimbursement, and \$200 to LeAnn Luedeker for monthly contract. Mr. Burns expressed concern that the payment to the Fair association was not what had been agreed to at the previous month. Rather than reimbursing the Fair, Discover Bellville should have made the buy, promoting the Musicfest and retaining the analytics. Ms. Sullins said she had misunderstood and would correct that in the future. Mr. Burns made motion to roll over CD, approve Treasurer's report, and pay bills as presented. Mr. Harrison 2nd. Motion approved unanimously.**

9. Consideration and Action as needed on Bell Street Redevelopment Plan. **Contract under review, no action required.**
10. Marketing Consultant's report. Discussion and Action as needed. **Ms. Sullins presented report. She organized a GIS training session for realtors on June 11th. Attendance was less than hoped, so after talking with realtors, Ms. Sullins will arrange for individual training sessions at each office. She stated the Discover Bellville Facebook page now has 1800 friends, and is gaining about 20 a day.**
11. Executive Session under Govt. Code Sec. 551.071, 551.072 and 551.087 to discuss legal matters with attorney, real property negotiations, and/or economic development negotiations. **None**
12. Action on matters considered in Executive Session.
13. Adjournment **6:41**