

MONTGOMERY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MINUTES

January 18, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Present were; Kirk Jones, Bill Hanover, Randy Moravec, Bob Kerr, Cheryl Fox, John Champagne and Andy Dill. Also present were Shannan Reid and Jack Yates.

Call to Order—Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Open Public Comment -- Rebecca Huss asked the Board to consider that quite a bit has changed recently regarding the economic development of the city, including the Antiques Festival, so perhaps it is time to reconsider the financing of the economic development office for adding another position.

Philip LaFavre said that he wanted to point out the role of the economic development person should perhaps be more of a city organization position and the festivals needed to be considered carefully considered with the downtown merchants getting most of the benefit.

John Fox introduced himself as the previous Mayor. He went on to say that Blazer builders had been selected on the basis of their commitment to serving senior citizens, families, and rent subsidized apartments. John went on to say that the email that was sent by Shannon Reed was inappropriate.

Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2015 --Motion by Moravec second by Fox to approve the amended version of the minutes. All in favor.

Monthly Financial Reports (November and December) -- Motion by Dill seconded by Hanover to improve the financial reports. All in favor.

Report from Texian Heritage Festival— Bea Rouse reported on the success of the recent Texian Heritage Festival. She said she had substantial help from volunteers. She said that grant recipients are in part selected by how many volunteers the group can provide. She said that the 2016 Festival date had been decided upon, October 8, 2016. The festival brought in \$21,600 with distribution and expenses totaling \$22,770.

Mr. Wayne Keller spoke briefly regarding Caiden's Hope organization who was one of the recipients of Festival funds.

Mr. Moravec asked about the community reinvestment act has to do with the festival fundraising. Mrs. Rouse answered that a sponsorship source was opened out by mentioning the community reinvestment act as a opportunity for banks to to be a sponsor. Mr. Moravec also asked about the mentioning of the MEDC in the printed materials regarding the festival and Mrs. Rouse explained that this is that is mentioned in on the website but not on the printed pages, on purpose. The Board briefly

discussed the wisdom about a more open statement on printed materials noting the MEDC support. The Board directed Shannan Reid to research what other area MEDC's have regarding public awareness of their support.

Discuss and consider selection of President of the MEDC -- Motion by Hanover seconded by Kerr that Kirk Jones be elected President. All in favor.

Discuss and consider selection of Vice-President of the MEDC— Motion by Fox seconded by Champagne that Bob Kerr be elected Vice-President. All in favor.

Discuss and consider selection of Secretary of the MEDC— Motion by Dill seconded by Fox that Bill Hanover be elected Secretary. All in favor.

Discuss and consider selection of Treasurer of the MEDC— Motion by Dill seconded by Fox that Randy Moravec be elected Treasurer. All in favor.

Motion by Moravec seconded by Hanover to appoint Jack Yates as Assistant Secretary and as Assistant Treasurer. All favor.

Discuss and take action regarding additional staff person to assist Economic Development Director and Staffing Vision— Shannon Reed said the H MBA had hired her as an events coordinator in 2012 but that job accelerated to include the MEDC duties as recommended by Bill Kotlan to combine the positions in October 2012. As interest grew in the city the position grew to where the plan was to work on the next project – – not a good plan for work duties. The agreement of 2012 is the current agreement. Shannon then gave the Board a scope of work she said that were the current Chamber of Commerce and MEDC activities.

The board discussed the precise duties of the proposed position. The person would be a 40 hour position at about \$40,000 per year fringes included.

Motion by Moravec second by Champagne to table this request. All in favor.

The Board then asked Jack Yates to ask the City Council to consider hiring of a facilitator for a strategic plan for the city.

Update and Report on Montgomery-- Area Chamber of Commerce— Shannan Reid said that the four organizational pillars of the Chamber are advocacy, communication, education, and engagement. She noted that the Chamber had 150 current members gaining 46% new members this past year and that business partners consisted of 73% of the membership.

CDI (Community Development Institute)--Shannan Reid asked to attend the Community Development Institute. Motion by Dill second by Kerr to approve Shannon's attendance. All in favor.

Mr. Champagne asked Jack Yates to consider who else might need to attend the session.

Officially Join Texas EDC — No action was needed.

TEDC Sale Tax Workshop and Mid-Year Conference— No action was needed.

Update on the Heritage Apartments -- Shannon reported on the email she sent to Blazer Builders wherein she noted that they did not appear to be marketing their apartments in the spirit as it was presented to City Council at the time of approval. The Board agreed with the email, adding that future such communications should be reviewed by the City Administrator.

Request for a long term commitment from MEDC for the partnership of Director Position --Shannan said that she was asking the MEDC for three years assurance of financing her position. Motion by Moravec seconded by Champagne to table. All in favor

Adjournment— Motion by Champagne seconded by Fox to adjourn at 8:10 PM. All in favor.

  
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Jack Yates, Recording Secretary

