

**Bellville Economic Development Corporation
20 March 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes**

David Ottmer called the Regular Meeting of the Bellville Economic Development Corporation to order at 4:03p.m., Tuesday, March 20, 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: Wayne Browning, Warren Scott, David Ottmer, Jim Freeman, Allene Schmitt, Angela Franks, and Denise Haugen. A quorum was certified. Executive Director Carolyn Gibson was present.

Motion was made by Wayne Browning to accept the agenda. Motion was seconded by Jim Freeman. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #5

Consideration and Action to Approve Minutes of the Previous Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Warren Scott to accept the minutes of the previous regular meeting, February 20, 2007. Motion was seconded by Jim Freeman. Motion carried with Denise Haugen abstaining.

Agenda Item # 6

Consideration and Action to Approve Treasurer's Report, Payment of Outstanding Bills

Treasurer's Report was given by Carolyn Gibson, based on Balance Sheet, YTD and February Profit & Loss, and Bank Reconciliations. Balance in FNB Checking Account as of February 28, 2007 was \$36,885.50. February Sales Tax Revenue of \$22,159.40 and Interest Income of \$29.72 & transfer from Wells Fargo MM account of \$20,000.000 resulted in total monthly deposits of \$42,189.12. Checks totaling \$88,946.54 were posted. Balance in Wells Fargo Money Market Account as of February 28, 2007 was \$50,915.73, with an interest payment of \$138.85 and the transfer to FNB Checking of \$20,000.00. Balance Sheet showed the following current Certificates of Deposit: Guaranty Bank- \$90,605.37, Wells Fargo- \$30,484.80, and Industry State Bank-(1) \$101,269.86 & (2) \$100,438.17. Total Current Assets as of February 28, 2007 are \$410,599.43. Interest earned on CD's for February was \$1,253.93. Outstanding bills totaling \$5,969.11 were presented for payment to: Bellville Chamber of Commerce of \$3,500.00 for Contract of Services for April, Carolyn Gibson- \$7.50 for toll reimbursement, Community Workshop Expenses to Brookshire Brothers- \$210.23, Jerome Peters- \$66.83, and Cravens Office supply- \$101.26, TEDC of \$350.00 for annual dues, Angela Franks of \$549.94 for printer cartridge reimbursement, and Star Shuttle of \$1,183.35 for Austin County Day bus cost. Warren Scott made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and payment of bills. Motion was seconded by Allene Schmitt and carried unanimously. Wayne Browning made the motion to renew the CD at Wells Fargo for a 5 month term at 4.90 APY. Motion was seconded by Allene Schmitt and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 7

Public Comment

Gerry Williams, owner of B&W Construction signed in to answer any questions concerning his grant request. Allene Schmitt commented the Project Budget valued the land at \$100,000.00 and asked if Mr. Williams owned this land, would 80% of the supplies be purchased locally in Bellville, and was he working on any other projects currently. Mr. Williams stated that plans had been made to purchase the land with an investor, but they did not own it at this time, and that he did plan to purchase his supplies locally and had other current projects. David Ottmer stated that state law requires contractors building or remodeling over \$20,000 worth of construction to be licensed, and asked if Mr. Williams was licensed by Texas Residential Construction Commission. Mr. Williams stated that he was not, but would take care of that requirement. Mr. Ottmer asked Mr. Williams to give a brief history on other companies that he had owned. Mr. Williams stated that he had worked in HUD programs to upgrade & remodel senior homes in Wharton & Matagorda Counties, and done individual owner upgrades and new home construction; that during the oil bust money got short and he had to change jobs to the trucking business, but he understands how business works. Mr. Williams said that the west side of Bellville has a lot of opportunity

for development, for affordable housing under \$100,000.00 that would put the property back on the tax rolls and provide job training for at-risk youth. Allene Schmitt asked if Mr. Williams lived in Bellville. He replied that he did, in west Bellville. Denise Haugen asked how many jobs he planned to create, and would they be long term. Mr. Williams answered 10 years at least, with 6 jobs created at the beginning, and an additional 2 employees more per year. Carolyn Gibson asked if the job trainees would be paid with the on-the-job training. Mr. Williams replied that the job trainees would begin at a small salary and increase as skills are learned, that some people are unemployable in other circumstances. Wayne Browning asked if 6 employees would be enough to start and support the business. Mr. Williams stated that a crew of 6 gets more done, that work moved faster.

Allene Schmitt asked if he would contract any work out to sub-contractors. Mr. Williams answered that electrical and plumbing would be subbed out using local businesses. Warren Scott asked if new jobs would be minimum wage level jobs, and Mr. Williams replied that starting wages would be \$7.50 to \$8.00/hour, above minimum wage. Allene Schmitt pointed out that Mr. Williams had wages of \$6.50 in the grant application. Warren Scott asked if Mr. Williams had applied for his Employer Identification Number and if he had contacted the SBA at Blinn or Prairie View. Mr. Williams said that he could accomplish the EIN registration in 1 day, that everything was in limbo until the grant was decided, but he would have all licenses and requirements in place. He also stated that he had been meeting with Blinn SBA for the last 5 years, which was where he had gotten most of his information. Denise Haugen asked if he had pursued funding from other sources. Mr. Williams stated that he had considered SBA loans, but there was a load of paperwork and bureaucracy involved, so he did not apply. David Ottmer thanked Mr. Williams for being on hand to answer questions from the Board.

Agenda Item # 8

Acceptance of any Grant Requests

Vastene Olier, Executive Director of Colorado Valley Transit District presented 10 copies of a grant application to the Board, requesting BEDC assistance with matching funds for an Austin County Job Transportation Grant.

Agenda Item # 9

Presentation by Vastene Olier, Executive Director of Colorado Valley Transit District Re: Financial Support of a Job Transportation Grant for Austin County

Vastene Olier presented a summary of the current transportation assistance offered in Bellville and Austin County by Colorado Valley Transit District, telling the Board that CVTD had been serving Austin, Colorado, Waller, and Wharton counties for 20 years with door to door, curb to curb, and demand response service. The users are mainly the elderly and disabled, but the service is available and open to everyone. She reported that variations in time needed didn't allow for job transportation, which is needed, thus the Job Transportation Grant. The federal grant is \$287,140.00 and requires 143,570.00 in local matching funds for a 1 year period. H-GAC Workforce Board has committed \$50,000.00 support, H-GAC Local Development Board has committed to a \$25,000.00 matching grant, TxDOT with \$50,000.00 matching for Federal Transportation funds. She has previously met with Sealy EDC, City of Sealy, City of Wallis, Wallis EDC, Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Super Wal-Mart, and Armor Holdings seeking the \$25,000.00 in matching funds needed. Mrs. Olier reported that the County-wide Vision meeting highlighted transportation as something that was needed in Austin County, multi-use transportation that would make employees and jobs more accessible, and would service Blinn College too. The route in Bellville and countywide would make it available for shopping, medical visits, and job transportation. A \$.50/stop for inner city trips, within the city limits, and \$1.50/stop for one way within the county would apply. Tickets will be available online for advance purchase and may be available at local stores in the future. Mrs. Olier stressed that the information needs to get out to the community, and that public transportation was a good economic development tool. Armor Holdings and Super Wal-Mart are hiring now, and CVTD is trying to service them now with current assets, averaging 350 one way trips per month. There are future plans for out of county transportation. David Ottmer asked if CVTD would interface with Houston Metro Park & Ride. Mrs. Olier answered yes, that Metro was coming to Katy, either to the Stadium or the Mall location. Outlying areas in the county would not be initially serviced, that the transfer centers will be in Bellville and Sealy. Denise Haugen asked if proposed routes in Bellville would include new stops. Mrs. Olier responded that CVTD would use existing routes but would need shelters, benches, and route and bus stop signs within the city. Allene Schmitt asked where bus funding came from. Mrs.

Olier replied that they currently had 27 buses, that they apply for grants from funding sources that provide transportation grants, average cost of \$60,000.00 has 80% federal funding and toll credits are matched. Angie Franks commented on the great service offered by CVTD, they were used frequently at the Physician's office where she worked. Mrs. Olier replied the only complaint was the wait time. Warren Scott asked if bus stops were included in the request. Mrs. Olier answered that no, CVTD has the signs and is asking the cities to donate in-kind labor for installation of the signs. Warren Scott asked about the capacity of the buses, to which Mrs. Olier answered 22 without wheelchairs, and if wheelchairs are present, they eliminated 4 seats. She suggested they may look at varying configurations. Denise Haugen asked if major stops would be located in front of homes. Mrs. Olier reported that most stops would be hospitals, clinics, grocery stores, and multiple family housing, but deviated routes would be available. Mr. Ottmer thanks Mrs. Olier for her presentation.

Agenda Item # 10
Consideration and Action on BEDC Letter of Support for the Current Job
Transportation Grant for Austin County

Angie Franks made a motion for BEDC to issue a Letter of Support for the Current Job Transportation Grant for Austin County. Motion was seconded by Allene Schmitt and carried unanimously. Mr. Ottmer presented the Letter of Support to Mrs. Olier after signing it as President on behalf of the Board of the Bellville Economic Development Corporation.

Agenda Item # 11
Committee Reports and Any Related Action

There were none.

Agenda Item # 12
Executive Director's Comments and Any Related Action

Carolyn Gibson presented a letter from County Judge Carolyn Bilski, thanking the BEDC for their support of Austin County Day at the State Capitol, March 15th. After Carolyn presented an advertising schedule for Bellville's Heritage Gathering, Denise Haugen made a motion to approve \$10,000.00 in promotional advertising for Bellville, in conjunction with Heritage Gathering. Motion was seconded by Jim Freeman and carried unanimously.

Carolyn also presented the Board with the Economic Development Corporation Report that was filed with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, a summary of the Austin County Visioning Workshop by H-GAC, information on the 24th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards, a list of elected officials for the Bellville/Austin County area, a "Transportation/ Emerging Technology Subcommittee" funding request by Seacon, AEIS report from Bellville ISD, and Texas Association of Business resource list. Carolyn reported to the Board that she had been using her personal cell phone service for BEDC, and asked if BEDC would purchase her a Blackberry or like device, enabling her to receive emails when not in the office. Allene Schmitt made a motion to reimburse Carolyn for the purchase, which was seconded by Denise Haugen. Motion carried unanimously. Denise Haugen stated that she and her husband both had the Blackberry and were very pleased with it and suggested that Carolyn purchase a Blackberry- that the Blackjack has software issues at present. Carolyn also presented information on upcoming LCRA/TLI courses, a request by TCEQ for hazardous household waste program input, HB 2772 authored by Rep. Lois Kolkhorst, and an invitation to breakfast with Congressman Mike McCaul sponsored by the Sealy EDC. A brief summary of the Las Damas Winery/Vineyard project and copies of that night's City Council agenda ended her report.

Agenda Item # 13
Questions and Comments from Board Members

Allene Schmitt reported that she would be attending a meeting in Brenham after the BEDC meeting to lobby for the Sealy Blinn Campus. There is a movement to close that campus. County Judge Carolyn Bilski would also be in attendance, representing the county's desire to keep Blinn at the Sealy Campus. Allene will report on any developments on the subject to the BEDC Board at the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Angie Franks made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Wayne Browning. President Ottmer adjourned the meeting at 5:27p.m.

Carolyn Gibson, Recording Secretary