

Meeting Minutes
Bellville Economic Development Corporation

The regular meeting of the Bellville Economic Development Corporation was called to order by David Ottmer at 5:30 P.M., Tuesday, October 23, 2001, in the Council meeting room at City Hall, Bellville, Texas.

Present were Wayne Browning, John Harle, David Ottmer, Susan Jones and Bruce White. A quorum was present.

Wayne Browning made a motion the Agenda be approved as presented. This motion was seconded by Bruce White and carried unanimously.

Bruce White made a motion the minutes of the September 24, 2001 regular meeting and the October 2, 2001 special meeting be approved as presented. Wayne Browning provided the second to the motion and it carried unanimously.

Gary Byrd was not present, but copies of the reports were distributed to members present. Suzanne Edwards read the Treasurer's Reports for September and October. A checkbook balance of \$162,788.52 was reported for August 31, 2001. A checkbook balance in the amount of \$188,052.82 was reported for October 19, 2001. Wayne Browning made the motion to accept the reports as presented. Susan Jones seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item # 6

Public Hearing for the Consideration of the Application
of Raising Academic Performance

Chairman David Ottmer recognized Janet Butler and asked that she address the Board regarding the application submitted by Raising Academic Performance for \$5,000.00 for the publishing of 500 copies of a Gang Awareness Handbook. Ms. Butler gave an overview of the

application for funds and circulated photographs of gang activity taken today in Austin County. She introduced Frank Becera, a RAP Board member and mentor. Ms. Butler stated he would summarize the second part of the application for funds for an additional \$5,000.00 to be divided between two RAP programs: 1) \$2,500.00 for five \$500.00 continuing education scholarships and 2) \$2,500.00 for tutoring students enrolled in RAP.

Ms. Butler stated the 500 copies of the Handbook would be distributed in Bellville. Sealy and Brazos schools will be approached separately regarding handbooks to be distributed in their areas. The Handbook would be printed in Spanish as well as English and would be made available at libraries, city hall, county courthouse, churches and schools. General discussion ensued regarding gang activity in Austin County and the need for such a publication. Further discussion focused on how this project fits into the economic development of Bellville. It generally was agreed the RAP program was great for the public schools, but perhaps was not an EDC issue. Ms. Butler was questioned regarding alternate sources of funding and she stated RAP had approached no other source for funding at this time.

Agenda Item #7
Action Concerning the Application of Raising Academic Performance

John Harle made a motion that funding in the requested amount of \$5,000.00 be approved. There was no second to this motion.

John Harle amended his original motion and made a new motion that a portion of the cost of 500 books be underwritten by the BEDC and costs be split with Sealy and Wallis. Janet Butler stated she would be meeting with the Sealy Chamber of Commerce on Monday, November 5th. John Harle suggested the motion be tabled until after the meeting with Sealy C of C and additionally that detailed information on printing costs and quantity pricing breaks be provided at the November 13, 2001 meeting. This motion was seconded by Wayne Browning and carried unanimously.

Because the Board was not aware the application for funds was two-fold, an agenda item for consideration of the scholarship and tutoring request was not included this month. It will, however, be placed on the agenda of the November 13 meeting for further consideration. The Board apologized for the misunderstanding.

Agenda Item #8
Public Hearing for the Consideration of the Application of LSG Sheetmetal

Both Andrew and Susan Leschper were present to answer any questions regarding their project. They reported steady work to date, but had no prepared remarks to make. The budget as presented in their application was addressed and the opinion was expressed that funds for vehicles could not be approved. They stated they would go ahead with the project if a lesser amount were granted. They were also asked if a location for the business had been found. Mr. Leschper replied two possible locations had been identified. One shop is for lease; the second shop is owned by Mr. Leschper's cousin and could be used by the Leschper's business. Three to four part-time

employees possibly could be put on the payroll.

**Agenda Item #9
Action Concerning the Application of LSG Sheetmetal**

John Harle made a motion the BEDC match the personal funds of the Leschper's and invest \$15,000.00 in the project with the provision funds will be disbursed as receipts are presented. This motion was seconded by Bruce White and carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item #10
Public Hearing for the Consideration of the Application of the Bluebonnet Society of Austin County, the Austin County Fair Association and the County Commissioners of Austin County on behalf of the Bellville Convention Center**

All groups were represented and there were many citizens of the community in attendance to show their support for this project. Susan Rathbone responded to questions from the Board by stating at least one phone call per week is anticipated in regard to reserving the renovated building. She also stated an inquiry had been received from the Charolais Association for an annual show and convention. The web page for the Convention Center is up and running. The current rental charge is \$450.00 for the first four hours and \$60.00 for each additional hour. These fees should decrease as the electricity and air conditioning costs are reduced due to the lowered ceiling. Current proceeds are profit to the Fair Association. Each of the three organizations making the proposal will contribute \$5,000.00 to the project. The Historical Society has pledged \$2,000.00 to be designated only to the stonework columns at the entrances. Keith Kidwell and Frank Monk were present for the Industrial Foundation. Both stated the IF would consider funding change orders to the work required if the application for the convention center is approved. Stanley Jackson reiterated the opinion of all the applicants that the economic return to the Bellville community would be ten-fold.

Agenda Item #11
Action Concerning the Application for The Bellville Convention Center

There was discussion among the Board members concerning the line item budget and the possibility of moving funds from one line item to another in order to approve the funding requested. John Harle made a motion we fund the \$63,600.00 requested for this project subject to the approval of a budget amendment to be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the BEDC. Susan Jones provided the second to this motion and it passed unanimously. Monies will be disbursed as receipts are presented for draws requested.

Agenda Item #12
Public Comment

Dennis Janosky was present to answer questions regarding his application for \$6,000.00 for D & D Recycling. During a review of his application it was noted the address of the business is 141 Leschper Road which is outside the city limits. John Harle noted the proceeds of city sales tax must remain within the city limits. Without a variance from City Council, we cannot consider a request for funds for a business outside the city limits.

Agenda Item #13
Consideration of any Action Necessary and Related to the Organization and Operation of a Corporation formed under Chapter 4B of the Economic Development Act of 1979, as Amended

An application from John Harle, president of the Bellville Chamber of Commerce, was presented in the amount of \$2,500.00 to be designated for tourism and the salaries of two Chamber assistants. This request will be considered at the first meeting held in January of 2002.

A letter received from Betty Meischen was discussed and the minutes of the BEDC meeting of November 2, 1999 were reviewed. The recording secretary was instructed to write to Ms. Meischen to request she reapply for funds using the revised application if she had continued interest in pursuing the project.

The \$25,000.00 grant awarded to Mrs. Lana Johnson for the renovation of the façade of the building at 11 North Bell was discussed in light of the letter received from her architect Jim Bishop stating the location of the project has been changed to 220 East Main Street where a new building will be constructed for The Bellville Trading Company. Mrs. Johnson has requested a ruling from the BEDC on the return of the funds awarded to her or on the transfer of the funds to the new project. The unanimous consensus of the Board calls for the return of the \$25,000.00 grant to the BEDC. Mrs. Johnson is to complete a new application for funds for The Bellville Trading Company as it is now projected to be developed. The recording secretary was instructed to write to Ms. Johnson in care of Jim Bishop to state the decision of the Board and to request the return of the funds.

John Harle was asked to prepare a Board Resolution which will become a part of policy. The resolution is to state future grant monies not expended for the purposes specifically intended as outlined in the original application to the BEDC must be returned and a new application for the revised project is to be submitted.

The ad hoc committee to consider revisions to the current application package will meet Monday, October 29, at noon at Beans & Baubles.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Edwards

Recording Secretary