

MINUTES OF MEDC REGULAR AND WORKSHOP MEETING

May 8, 2024

MONTGOMERY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CALL TO ORDER

President Jeff Angelo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Jeff Angelo – President
Carol Langley – Treasurer
Ryan Londeen – Secretary
Wade Nelson – Board Member
Casey Olson – Board Member
Dan Walker – Board Member

Absent: Arnette Easley – Vice President

Also Present: Gary Palmer, City Administrator
Dave McCorquodale, Director of Planning & Development

CALL TO ORDER

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Consideration and possible action on the March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Dan Walker and seconded by Casey Olson. **All in favor. (6-0).**

2. Consideration and possible action on a grant request not to exceed \$3,000 for Freedom Fest 2024.

Motion to approve item #2 as presented was made by Carol Langley and seconded by Dan Walker. **All in favor. (6-0).**

CONVENE INTO WORKSHOP:

Convened into workshop presentation at 5:36 p.m.

Ryan Londeen arrived at the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

1. Presentation and discussion with Retail Strategies regarding economic development services.

The City pursued hiring a full-time Economic Development Director in 2023. After unsuccessfully filling the position, city staff reassessed options. Retail Strategies is an economic development consultant that Mr. Gary Palmer has experience with. After an initial web meeting and follow up conversations, staff scheduled a workshop date for Mr. Chris Bontrager of Retail Strategies to introduce himself and Retail Strategies to the MEDC.

A presentation and open discussion took place between MEDC, elected leaders, and an economic development consultant on local conditions, opportunities, and services that could aid in meeting the MEDC's goal of enhancing economic growth in the City.

Mr. Bontrager covered the recruitment services by Retail Strategies (RS) that market a community's strengths to potential developers and national brands/companies. He proposed that a team at RS would be able to provide high quality, part-time economic development consulting services. He also discussed their Downtown Strategies (DS) services that focus on a Downtown Strategic Plan & Implementation that supports existing business retention and growth. The plan would complement, not replace or duplicate the MEDC's efforts in improving downtown in recent years including the completed Downtown Master Plan, ongoing McCown Street Improvements Project, and ongoing City-wide Wayfinding Signage Project.

After discussing the information supplied by Mr. Bontrager and an initial list of needs and factors about the City's economic development prospects and the historic downtown, all agreed to bring a proposal from Retail Strategies/Downtown Strategies to the 6/18/24 meeting for further discussion and action.

BOARD INQUIRY

No board inquiry at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeff Angelo, President adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Dave McCorquodale
Director of Planning & Development

Date Approved: _____

Jeff Angelo, MEDC President