

MINUTES OF ANNUAL AND REGULAR MEETING
February 20, 2023
MONTGOMERY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CALL TO ORDER

President Rebecca Huss called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Rebecca Huss - President
 Jeff Angelo – Vice President
 Carol Langley - Treasurer
 Byron Sanford - Board Member
 Wade Nelson – Board Member
 Dan Walker – Board Member

Absent: Ryan Londeen - Secretary

Also Present: Gary Palmer, City Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Annual and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2023.**

Rebecca Huss said there is one brief change needed on page nine where it reads a keeper solution when it should read a cheaper solution.

Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 16, 2023 with the one change on page nine from keeper to cheaper was made by Jeff Angelo and seconded by Byron Sanford. All in favor. (6-0)

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

2. **January 2023 City Sales Tax Report review and discussion (MEDC Financial Report not available for meeting).**

Mr. Palmer stated there has been an eighteen percent increase over the last year at this time.

Rebecca Huss said it is interesting to note McCoy's is the number one sales tax filer and they are not in an Economic Development Agreement with them however, unlike other parts of our history, we are now much more vulnerable to changes in the overall economic environment. Rebecca Huss said this is something to keep in mind when looking at budgeting. Rebecca Huss said there is definitely more variability. Rebecca Huss said at one point in looking at their past, the one through five top tax filers were essentially Kroger, Brookshire Brothers, Entergy, and Jim's Hardware which was much more driven by the people who live here and shop local as opposed to things that are much more driven by national economic factors.

Byron Sanford said it is good to have a seven percent increase in the number of tax filers.

Motion to accept and approve the Financial Report as given was made by Byron Sanford and seconded by Dan Walker. All in favor. (6-0)

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

3. **Consideration and possible action on a contract and grant application for the 2023 Music & Mudbugs Festival.**

Mr. Charlie Diggs said the festival site has been moved to the opposite side of the driveway leading up to Ransom's. Mr. Diggs said everything is in place and he is looking forward to a successful festival.

Mr. Diggs said they have been nominated for the Texas Country Music Award Festival for the year.

Rebecca Huss said their outside festival policy has been to be a support for three years only and this will be the third year for this festival. Rebecca Huss said after three years they will either have to let the festival stand on its own or amend the policy.

Motion to approve an \$8,000 grant application and contract for the 2023 Music and Mudbugs Festival was made by Jeff Angelo and seconded by Byron Sanford. All in favor. (6-0)

4. **Consideration and possible action on a grant application for the March 4 Our Military 5K ruck march.**

Rebecca Huss said they sponsored this event last year. Rebecca Huss said the \$500 was to cover the police costs involved with the event.

Jeff Angelo said he thinks there will be a larger attendance this year and believes it is a good event.

Motion to accept and award the \$500 grant application to Alpha Elite Performance Outdoors was made by Jeff Angelo and seconded by Wade Nelson. All in favor. (6-0)

5. **Consideration and possible action on a grant application for the Montgomery Community Band.**

Mr. Joseph Fioretti, Director of the Montgomery Community Band gave a brief presentation.

Byron Sanford said he is a huge fan of the arts and anything else they can do to try and create some culture downtown. Byron Sanford thanked Mr. Fioretti for what he is doing.

Rebecca Huss said that as part of their sponsorships, they request the City is given credit. Rebecca Huss asked Mr. Fioretti how he would anticipate that if it is a possibility. Mr. Fioretti said he has spoken with Thomas Printing and they will print all of their concert programs free of charge as long as their logo was included. Mr. Fioretti said he would also include any other branding for Montgomery. Rebecca Huss said they can also speak with the City about cross posting the concert events as well.

Motion to fund the grant for the Montgomery Community Band in the amount of \$3,000 to be taken from the unallocated events line item was made by Byron Sanford and seconded by Jeff Angelo. All in favor. (6-0)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

6. **February 2023 Development Report.**

Rebecca Huss said she wanted to include on their list of things to achieve in 2023 to have the road from Buffalo Springs Drive extend all the way over to CB Stewart. Rebecca Huss asked Wade

Nelson if he could convince the current landowner that it is a priority for them.

7. **City Engineer’s Report.**

Discussions were held regarding TxDOT and the expansion of SH 105 west and various other local roads in and around the City. Rebecca Huss said you have to work with developers as they develop the property they own so all of this is dependent on the economy, when the developments take place, and when developers sell their large tracts. Rebecca Huss said some of the planning is in the City’s ETJ and they cannot control what happens in the ETJ.

Wade Nelson asked what it would take to get the Commissions to focus on this area. Wade Nelson said FM 149, SH 105, FM 2854, and Lone Star Parkway all need to be addressed today.

Rebecca Huss said they need to ask City staff or engage an outside firm to act on the City’s behalf to create materials and/or lobby for them with HGAC, TxDOT, and with our State Senators regarding having projects moved forward and moved to the top of the list for funding. Wade Nelson said engaging developers and getting in front of them and knowing what is happening certainly helps. Wade Nelson said there needs to be a lot of attention and a lot of noise made.

Rebecca Huss said the best bet for moving them forward would be to look for outside services. Mr. Palmer said for what they are looking for, absolutely.

BOARD INQUIRY

No comments were made at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dan Walker and seconded by Carol Langley to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. All in favor. (6-0).

Submitted by: _____
Diana Cooley, Deputy City Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Rebecca Huss, MEDC President