

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
MISSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MARCH 17, 2015 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL**

PRESENT:

S. David Deanda, Jr., President
Jody Tittle, Vice President
Richard Hernandez, Secretary
Linda Requénez, Treasurer
Catherine Garcia
Abiel Flores
Mayor Norberto Salinas served in the Mayor Position

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Ricardo A. Perez, Consultant
Susan Valverde, Sylvan Learning Center
Jessica Galloso, Sylvan Learning Center
Efrain Zamora, Mission CISD
Yvonne R. Zamora, Mission CISD
Elvira Ramirez, Mission, CISD
Margarita Garcia, Mission CISD
Mariano Garcia, Mission CISD
Alejandro Rosales, Leadership Mission
Norma Lopez, Mission Boys & Girls Club
Toto Martinez, Mission Boys & Girls Club
Terry Benavides, Mims Elementary
Juan E. Gonzalez
Maxilou Link

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Meade, Chief Executive Office
Randy Perez, Finance Director
Judy Vega, Executive Assistant
Bertha Ramirez, Administrative Assistant
David Gonzales, Accountant
Daniel Silva, COO

1. Call to order

With a quorum being present President S. David Deanda Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – February 17, 2015

There being no corrections or additions Catherine Garcia moved for approval. Motion was seconded by Richard Hernandez and approved 7-0.

CEO Alex Meade asked if the last item on the agenda, **Sylvan Learning Center Presentation**, could be moved up. President Deanda agreed to present the item next.

3. Sylvan Learning Center Presentation

Mr. Meade mentioned that the program Code the Town has been very successful since MEDC partnered with Sylvan Learning Center. Code the Town was created to teach students computer programming. To date, 400 students and 100 teachers have been trained in the program. Educators from Mims Elementary

were present to recognize some students that participated in the program. Susan Valverde, Director of Sylvan Learning Center, thanked the Board and Mayor Salinas for funding the program. She said the center invited four districts to participate with Mission CISD taking the lead with 200 students from 2nd to 6th grade unraveling codes, creating and developing apps and doing what it takes to build a video game or web application. She introduced Yvonne Zamora, Elvira Ramirez, and Terry Benavidez, all representing Mims Elementary; and Jessica Galloso with Sylvan Learning Center. Mims Principal Ms. Benavidez said that coding has strongly taken off at Mims with students now taking it as an elective. Students Mariano Garcia, Emma Zamora, and Madeline King from Mims were three out of seven who were recognized for their outstanding participation. Ms. Benavidez said that 200 students have signed up for the second round of training and by the end of the spring 400 are expected. Mission Boys & Girls Club Director Toro Martinez, who was instrumental in getting kids interested during its pilot program, was also recognized. Mr. Meade said that the City of Mission is the only city in the Rio Grande Valley that has this program and now other cities are following. He said that last week President Obama announced the launching of a new program called “Tech Hire” which is exactly like Code the Town. Mr. Meade said he is proud that Mission EDC started the effort months ahead of the effort being launched nationwide. He also mentioned that he and State Representative Bobby Guerra have filed House Bill 3700, which was created to promote computer science in schools. This bill will allow participating school districts to comply with curriculum requirements for the third mathematics credit or the third science credit by successfully completing an advanced computer science course. No action was taken or required.

Mayor Salinas left the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

4. Approval of MEDC Financial Statements for February 2015

Finance Director Randy Perez presented and recommended approval of the Financial Statement for February 2015.

There being no corrections or additions Catherine Garcia moved for approval. Motion was seconded by Jody A. Tittle and approved 6-0.

5. Public Hearing – Budget Amendment to the FY 2014-2015 Budget: Food Manufacturing Expansion Project in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 over a period of 10 years

President S. David Deanda Jr. opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. and asked for comments on the proposed project consideration for FY 2014-2015.

CEO Alex Meade said that there is a food manufacturing company that is looking to either expand or acquire another food manufacturing company. He referred to the companies as Company A, who is looking into expanding and acquiring Company B, the existing company. If Company A acquires Company B, they will be investing approximately \$50 million. Because of the significant investment, Company A is asking for an incentive of a reimbursement of personal and real property taxes in the amount of \$4,000,000 over a period of 10 years. Funding is also being requested at state and county levels. The county has agreed to assist with 25% of the amount we incentivize. We are waiting to hear from the state. Mr. Meade mentioned that depending on the amount the state comes up with, we may not need to incentivize the full \$4,000,000. He also mentioned that if Company A does not acquire Company B, then Company A will relocate outside the City of Mission limits. We should know next

month whether Company A's offer to Company B was accepted. If it is not accepted, then we do not move forward the incentives.

There being no further comments, President S. David Deanda Jr. declared the public hearing closed at 6:05 p.m.

The notice of public hearing and notice of intention to undertake the project was published on February 20, 2015 and the 60 day comment period will end on April 21, 2015.

6. Authorization to Publish Notice of Intention to Authorize a Budget Amendment to the FY 2014-15 Budget and schedule a public hearing for April 21, 2015 related to said authorization

Mr. Meade said he would like the Board's authorization to publish a notice of intention to authorize a Budget Amendment to the FY 2014-15 Budget and schedule a public hearing on April 21, 2015 for the following project: Offsite Infrastructure Improvements for a project off of 3 Mile Road between Schuerbach Road and La Homa Road, Mission, Texas in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.

Richard Hernandez moved for authorization to publish notice of intention to authorize a Budget Amendment to the FY 2014-15 Budget and schedule a public hearing for April 21, 2015 related to said authorization. Motion was seconded by Linda Requenez and approved 6-0.

7. President's Comments

None.

8. Adjournment

Catherine Garcia moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Jody A. Tittle and approved 6-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

S. David Deanda, Jr., President

ATTEST:

Richard Hernandez, Secretary