

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING, PUBLIC HEARING & WORKSHOP**  
**MISSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**AUGUST 20, 2013            5:30 PM**  
**MISSION CITY HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Jody Tittle, Secretary  
Linda Requénez, Treasurer  
Catherine Garcia  
Richard Hernández  
Mayor Norberto Salinas served in the Mayor Position

**ABSENT:**

S. David Deanda, Jr., President  
Polo de Leon, Vice President

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Jose Cruz, Scorpion Security Consultant  
Marianna Treviño-Wright, NABA  
Aurora Rimblas, Ariva Properties, LLC  
Alejandro Rivera Robles, Ariva Properties, LLC  
Opal Billman  
Carina Brunson, Progress Times  
Bill Filut  
Samuel Shipp, Brilliant Inventors, LLC  
Frank Brewster III  
Angela Brewster  
Anthony Brewster  
Jesus R. Briseño, Edcouch-Elsa ISD  
Alyssa Briseño, Edcouch-Elsa ISD  
Pat Bubb, RGV Lead  
Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez, Region One Education Service Centers

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Alex Meade, Chief Executive Office  
Randy Perez, Assistant Finance Director  
Judy Vega, Executive Assistant  
Martin Garza Jr., City Manager  
Daniel Silva, Chief Operating Officer  
David Gonzales, Accountant

**1. Call to order**

With a quorum being present Secretary Jody Tittle called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- A. June 18, 2013**
- B. July 23, 2013**

There being no corrections or additions Richard Hernandez moved for approval of both sets of minutes. Motion was seconded by Catherine Garcia and approved 5-0.

**3. Approval of Financial Statements**

- A. June 2013**
- B. July 2013**

Assistant Finance Director Randy Perez presented and recommended approval of the Financial Statements for the month of June 2013 and July 2013.

There being no corrections or additions Catherine Garcia moved for approval. Motion was seconded by Linda Requenez and approved 5-0.

#### **4. Public Hearing**

##### **A. MEDC FY 2013-2014 Proposed Budget**

Secretary Tittle opened the public hearing at 5:41 p.m. and asked for comments on the MEDC FY 2013-2014 proposed budget. There being no comments, Secretary Tittle declared the public hearing closed at 5:42 p.m.

The notice of public hearing and notice of intention to undertake projects was published on June 21, 2013 and the 60 day comment period ends August 20, 2013.

#### **5. Workshop – discussion of proposed budget for FY 2013-2014**

##### **A. City of Mission**

##### **B. Texas Citrus Fiesta**

##### **C. RGV Lead (formerly known as Tech Prep)**

##### **D. Small Business Fund Program (also known as Ruby Red Ventures)**

##### **E. Downtown Façade Improvement Program**

##### **F. North American Butterfly Association**

Representatives of each agency appeared before the membership and explained their requests.

City of Mission - City Manager Martin Garza Jr. reported on the city's request of \$1,000,000. He reported that the funds will be used for infrastructure improvements around the city and that part of the funds from this request was going towards a new project, the expansion of Taylor Road. Mayor Norberto Salinas mentioned that this new project was a combined effort from Mission, McAllen, and Hidalgo County, with a \$1.3 million commitment by each entity over a period of three years. At the Board's request, a more detailed list on the projects for which these funds will be used, will be provided to the Board at their next meeting.

Texas Citrus Fiesta - Berta Filut with the Texas Citrus Fiesta (TCF) reported on their request of \$60,000. She expressed her gratitude for the support MEDC has provided on past requests. Ms. Filut mentioned that as expected from previous years, the TCF has been a very well represented event. She said that the organization has been able to repair the roof, repair three air condition units, as well as do some upgrading on some office equipment. This upcoming year will be the TCF's 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Over 100,000 participants came to last year's event and girls from Rio Grande City to South Padre Island participated in the Royal Court pageant for Queen & King titles.

RGV Lead (also known as Tech Prep) - MEDC CEO Alex Meade introduced and welcomed Dr. Cornelio Gonzalez, former Superintendent for Mission CISD and now Executive Director for Region One Education Service Centers to report on RGV Lead's request of \$75,000. Dr. Gonzalez mentioned that during his tenure as Superintendent of MCISD, several districts worked together on this project, La Joya and Sharyland ISD. After many meetings together, the educators developed a brochure informing parents and student about available job opportunities within Mission. Dr. Gonzalez looks forward to

promoting RGV Lead once again to assist in the preparation of our area students for those jobs. He said he was enthusiastic to learn that the group had been invited to present the program at the Texas Association of School Administrators Annual Conference in Austin, where they shared it with superintendents all over the state. A job fair is being planned in November at Veterans Memorial High School.

Small Business Fund – MEDC CEO Alex Meade reported that last year, the Board approved \$100,000 for the Small Business Fund, also known as Ruby Red Ventures, which has been very successful. One of its kind in Texas, the program promotes entrepreneurship and innovation in the City of Mission. In early February 2013 four participants shared an award of \$42,000 between them during the first round of competition. The second and final round of competition will be awarded \$50,000 among five participants today. He is requesting that another \$100,000 be approved for next fiscal year.

Downtown Façade Improvement Program – Mr. Meade stated that he is requesting the approval of an allocation of \$100,000 to be spent with downtown merchants in the form of a matching grant for façade improvements on their businesses. For example, if a merchant wants to spend \$1,000 on the improvement of their building, MEDC will match that amount. The grants will be on a case by case basis until funds are exhausted. He said that he wanted to support Mission Redevelopment Authority and the City of Mission, who are spending a significant amount of money on their Conway Streetscape Project.

North American Butterfly Association – Executive Director Marianna Treviño-Wright reported on NABA's request of \$20,000. She said that NABA's request was to be used for the restoration of five acres of wetlands that had been destroyed during Hurricane Alex. She said that the nearest wetlands are in Edinburg and Weslaco and that San Juan had recently added a wetland. Ms. Treviño-Wright mentioned that eco-tourism brings in \$400 million in Texas. She stated that if the funding is approved, a grand breaking is expected in January 2014.

## **6. Ruby Red Ventures Awards Presentation**

CEO Alex Meade presented the second and final round of winners of the Ruby Red Ventures Program as follows: Ariva Properties, LLC. dba Ariva Business Center - \$15,000 (the entrepreneur's name is Alejandro Rivera Robles); Jose Cruz dba Scorpion Security Consultant - \$10,000; Frank Brewster III dba Brewster's Guacamaya Enterprises - \$10,000; Brilliant Inventors, LLC. dba The Knife Glider - \$10,000 (the entrepreneur's name is Samuel Shipp); and Margarita Mustard and Juan Sanchez dba Rockkore Asylum - \$5,000. Each winner thanked the Board for the awards and took the opportunity to say a few words about their new businesses.

## **7. President's Comments**

CEO Alex Meade mentioned that the state had approved the Texas Enterprise Zone application for Royal Technologies with a grant of \$2,500 for each job for a period of five years for a total of \$1.2 million.

**8. Adjournment**

Richard Hernandez moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Catherine Garcia and approved 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

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S. David Deanda, Jr., President

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Jody A. Tittle, Secretary