

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING, PUBLIC HEARINGS & WORKSHOP OF THE
MISSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
JULY 21, 2015 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL**

PRESENT:

Richard Hernandez, Secretary
Linda Requénez, Treasurer
Catherine Garcia
Abiel Flores
Mayor Norberto Salinas served in the Mayor Position

ABSENT:

S. David Deanda, Jr., President
Jody Tittle, Vice President

ALSO PRESENT:

Julie Silva, Progress Times
Bill Filut, Texas Citrus Fiesta
Bibi Peña, Texas Citrus Fiesta
Alejandro Rosales

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Meade, Chief Executive Office
Randy Perez, Finance Director
Judy Vega, Executive Assistant
Bertha Ramirez, Administrative Assistant
David Gonzales, Accountant
Martin Garza Jr., City Manager

1. Call to order

With a quorum being present Secretary Richard Hernandez called the meeting to order at 5:41p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. June 16, 2015 - There being no corrections or additions Mayor Norberto Salinas moved for approval. Motion was seconded by Abiel Flores and approved 5-0.

B. April 21, 2015 Corrected Minutes - Mr. Meade is requesting the Board's approval for a correction on the MEDC Board meeting minutes of April 21, 2015 as follows:

Item 5 – Motion reads: Richard Hernandez moved for approval of Budget Amendment to FY 2014-2015 Budget in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 over a period of 10 years (\$300,000 each year) for the Food Manufacturing Expansion Project. Motion was seconded by Catherine Garcia and approved 6-0.

Item 5 – Corrected: Richard Hernandez moved for approval of Budget Amendment to FY 2014-2015 Budget in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 over a period of 10 years (\$300,000 each year) for *Wonderful Citrus*, the Food Manufacturing Expansion Project. Motion was seconded by Catherine Garcia and approved 6-0.

Catherine Garcia moved for approval of the April 21, 2015 meeting minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Linda Requénez and approved 5-0.

3. Approval of MEDC Financial Statements for June 2015

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

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

4. Public Hearing - Budget Amendment to the FY 2014-2015 Budget: Manufacturing Expansion Project in an amount not to exceed \$55,000

Secretary Hernandez opened the public hearing at 5:44 p.m. and asked for comments on the proposed project consideration for FY 2014-2015.

CEO Alex Meade said that there is a company that is expanding in the Mission Expressway Business Park. This company has gained a large contract which will increase production and will require the installation of a new crane in the facility. The cost of the crane is \$110,000 plus they will also have to invest in a paint booth. Mr. Meade said that the company is requesting assistance with 50% of the cost of the crane or \$55,000. Overall the company is investing about \$180,000. They will be generating 10 jobs and they have been in the park for some time.

There being no further comments, Secretary Hernandez declared the public hearing closed at 5:46 p.m.

The notice of public hearing and notice of intention to undertake the project was published on June 19, 2015 and the 60 day comment period will end on August 18, 2015.

5. Authorization to publish Notice of Intention to Undertake a Project or Projects for FY 2015-2016 and schedule a Public Hearing for August 18, 2015 related to MEDC Projects for FY 2015-2016

Mr. Meade said he would like the Board's authorization to publish a notice of intention to undertake a project or projects for FY 2015-2016 and schedule a public hearing on August 18, 2015 for consideration of the following project: Downtown Rent Subsidy Program in an amount not to exceed \$50,000

Abiel Flores moved for authorization to publish notice of Intention to Undertake a Project or Projects for FY 2015-2016 and schedule a Public Hearing for August 18, 2015 related to said MEDC projects for FY 2015-2016. Motion was seconded by Linda Requénez and approved 5-0.

6. Public Hearing – MEDC FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget

Secretary Hernandez opened the public hearing at 5:48 p.m. and asked for comments on the MEDC FY 2015-16 proposed budget.

There being no comments, Secretary Hernandez declared the public hearing closed at 5:49 p.m.

The notice of public hearing and notice of intention to undertake projects was published on June 19, 2015 and the 60 day comment period will end on August 18, 2015.

7. Workshop – discussion of proposed budget for FY 2015-2016

City of Mission – City Manager Martin Garza Jr. said that the city’s request of **\$1,000,000** was for continuing projects throughout the City. Funds requested in the past have been used for infrastructure projects. He mentioned four ongoing projects: Overpass on Inspiration; 2 Mile Line (Inspiration Rd. from Exp. 83 all the way to 3 Mile line); and Phase II on Taylor Road improvements (Exp. 83 to Mile 2). Mr. Garza said that the city’s portion on each project is minimal compared to the actual costs of each project and gave an example of one, Taylor Road, the City’s contribution is 9% of the \$25 million actual cost. Some funding comes from the MPO and state and federal funds. The City’s contribution for all four projects will be approximately \$12 million once completed. A request was made by Treasurer Linda Requenez for a report on how the funds were and will be expensed. Mr. Garza said he will ask the finance department to prepare a report.

A. RGV Lead – CEO Alex Meade mentioned that the Director for RGV Lead, Dr. Norma Salaiz was not able to present at this meeting due to a medical emergency in her family. Formerly known as Tech-Prep, this program aligns what is taught in technical classes then paired with what companies need when they recruit. When we recruit a company, the students will learn the skills that that company needs. In the spring of 2015, 785 graduates from Mission ISD, 450 from La Joya, and 66 from Sharyland ISD have benefited from the program. The program has been very successful and these three school districts have benefited from them. RGV Lead is asking for **\$75,000** to continue the program.

B. Texas Citrus Fiesta – Bill Filut, President of Texas Citrus Fiesta, mentioned that the organization has come before requesting **\$75,000** (an additional \$15,000 to the \$60,000 they normally request). He said that this fiscal year’s additional \$15,000 will be used to do a remodeling of an old office in the Mission Community Center that will be converted into a meeting room. The work will be done in house and funds will be used for the materials. Mr. Filut said that the Texas Citrus Fiesta has had another successful year traveling to Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Laredo where they have had very good reception. Mr. Filut mentioned that since Ms. Berta Peña’s passing, her sister Bibi Peña has been a great asset to the organization by taking the lead in all its activities.

C. Small Business Fund Programs – CEO Alex Meade reported that the **\$250,000** request is to fund the following programs: Ruby Red Ventures Program and Code the Town Program; and a newly created program called Enginuity. He mentioned that 130 entrepreneurs had already participated in the Ruby Red Ventures Program of which 22 small businesses have been awarded. The average grant awarded has been \$10,000. Code the Town teaches students computer programming. About 600 kids between the ages of 5-12 years old from Mission ISD, Sharyland ISD, and La Joya ISD all have benefited from this program. The newly created program called Enginuity teaches students about engineering concepts. This program is being presented in partnership with Royal Technologies Corporation. He mentioned that the Ford Next Generation Learning Organization, part of Ford will be here next week to meet with Royal Technologies about the program. The \$250,000 request will be allocated in the following manner: \$100,000 for Ruby Red Ventures, \$100,000 for Code the Town, and \$50,000 for Enginuity.

D. Downtown Façade Improvement Fund – Mr. Meade mentioned that 21 downtown businesses have benefitted from this program. He said that Mission EDC has paid out not only grants for improvements but matching grants as well. For the past two years, out of the \$100,000 each year, about \$90,000 has been matching grants so it’s not only us providing funds, but also property

owners are investing their own money. The program has been very successful and he is requesting another **\$100,000** for next year's FY to continue it.

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

8. Secretary's Comments

None.

9. Adjournment

Catherine Garcia moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Linda Requenez and approved 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

S. David Deanda, Jr., President

ATTEST:

Richard Hernandez, Secretary