

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
MISSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
JANUARY 21, 2020 5:30 P.M.
CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PRESENT:

Pete Jaramillo, Vice President
Aissa I. Garza, Secretary
Balde Morales
Mario Garza
Mayor Armando O’Cana served in the Mayor Position

ABSENT:

S. David Deanda, Jr., President
Dr. Sonia Treviño, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT:

Jose De Leon, Progress Times

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Silva, Chief Executive Officer
Joel A. Garza, Chief Operating Officer
Angie Vela, Finance Director
Ezeiza Garcia, Assistant Finance Director
Judy Vega, Executive Assistant
Randy Perez, City Manager
Jasmine Ramos, MEDC Receptionist
Shaine Mata, Facility Manager
Cristina Garza, Director of Social Impact

1. Call to order

With a quorum being present Vice President Pete Jaramillo called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of November 19, 2019.

There being no corrections or additions Mario Garza moved for approval. Motion was seconded by Balde Morales and approved 5-0.

3. Approval of Financial Statements for October & November 2019.

Finance Director Angie Vela presented and recommended approval of the financial report for October and November 2019.

There being no corrections or additions, Secretary Aissa Garza moved for approval of the financial statements for October & November 2019 as presented. Motion was seconded by Mario Garza and approved 5-0.

4. Acceptance of \$15,000 Grant from CSforALL.

CEO Daniel Silva presented and recommended acceptance of a \$15,000 Grant from CSforALL. He mentioned that the first portion of this grant was used to create an ecosystem which allowed us to provide boxes that contained materials for computer science programs to students from area school

districts. The second portion was used to provide computer science courses to students K-12. This grant was a matching grant meaning that we had to commit \$15,000 in order to participate. This did not affect our budget since funds had already been budgeted for these type of programs under our Code the Town initiative. CEO Daniel Silva mentioned that staff will go in front of the Board for authorization to apply for grants next time, and that once the grant is awarded, it will be brought back to the Board for acceptance.

Mario Garza moved for acceptance of the \$15,000 Grant from CSforALL. Motion was seconded by Secretary Aissa Garza and approved 5-0.

5. Acceptance \$490,268 Grant from Texas Workforce Commission for Project Cyber Mission.

CEO Daniel Silva presented and recommended acceptance of a \$490,268 from Texas Workforce Commission for Project Cyber Mission. He mentioned that we received communication from the governor's office announcing the award of the grant. The grant is being used for cyber security training. Three semesters of this training will take place and we are currently on the second semester. Although the training has already begun, we are bringing it to the Board for acceptance. The grant come from the state thru the Texas Workforce Commission to help participants develop new skills and hopefully master cyber security. CEO Daniel Silva also informed the Board that Diana McDonnell, former CEED receptionist, had been offered the position of Career Services Coordinator & Community Manager for Project Cyber Mission, and that Ms. McDonnell had accepted. This position is paid by the grant and is only for one year; however, thru the process, Ms. McDonnell has also been learning. She has the technical aptitude that was needed for the position and although the program is only for 12 months, we are planning on applying for the grant again.

Balde Morales moved for acceptance of the \$490,268 Grant from Texas Workforce Commission. Motion was seconded by Mario Garza and approved 5-0.

6. Approval of Budget Amendment to FY 19-20 Budget: Administrative.

Finance Director Angie Vela presented and recommended approval of the Budget Amendment to FY 2019-2020 Budget. She said there were three amendments. The first one is \$42,846, funds received from a 5x5 Brewery insurance settlement claim for damages that were incurred on the CEED building in October 2019. The second amendment is to allocate \$15,000, grant funds from CSforALL related to the Eco Systems project for computer science education; and the third amendment is to allocate the Texas Workforce Commission \$490,268 grant funds related to Project Cyber Mission. Secretary Aissa Garza made a question related to the Project Cyber Mission on the salary aspect of it. Are we expecting a decrease in employee salaries since Diana McDonnell's salary will be covered by this grant? The CEO said that it will not affect the MEDC employee salaries and that the receptionist position for CEED is expected to be filled soon.

Mario Garza moved for approval of Budget Amendment to FY 2019-2020 Budget: Administrative. Motion was seconded by Secretary Aissa Garza and approved 5-0.

7. Authorization to Publish Notice of Intention to Authorize a Budget Amendment to the FY 2019-2020 Budget and schedule a public hearing for February 18, 2020 related to said authorization.

CEO Daniel Silva said that this is MEDC's first step to offer some incentives for two projects. First we inform the public about our intentions to offer assistance. One of the projects is for a developer who plans on purchasing and revamping the Clarion Inn & Suites on Shary Road. The hotel is almost completely remodeled and will be going back on the hotel-motel tax rolls soon. He is requesting \$50,000 a year for up to 10 years. The developer also plans on expanding to accommodate various local sport teams, who will all be staying at the hotel. This project is being considered for assistance solely on the developer's capital investment. He also plans on building sports complexes nearby. The second project is for a sales tax reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$7 million over a period of 30 years. The developer, Newquest, plan on developing the property where the old K-Mart used to be located on the corner of Bryan Road and Hwy 83. The City of Mission has already approved an agreement on their part. He is requesting reimbursement of the sales tax that will be generated by the new tenants when they occupy approximately 120,000 sq. ft. of retail. A portion of the reimbursement is with the City of Mission and another with the Mission EDC. Questions were made on the reimbursement percentage that the City of Mission and the Mission EDC would be responsible for. CEO Daniel Silva said that it will be 100% of what the tenants generate in sales, and not 100% of what the Mission EDC receives from sales tax, which is 2%. Secretary Aissa Garza suggested that a change is made on the notice of intention and public hearing on the amount of the reimbursement. Instead of \$7 million, it needs to read "in an amount not to exceed \$1.75 million" because the Mission EDC's portion is ¼ of the 2% sales taxes we receive. The City of Mission will be paying the remaining amount, over a period of 30 years. Brief discussion took place.

After the discussion, and subject to the correction on the Notice of Intention and Public Hearing, Secretary Aissa Garza moved for Authorization to Publish Notice of Intention to Authorize a Budget Amendment to the FY 2019-2020 Budget and schedule a public hearing for February 18, 2020 related to said authorization. Motion was seconded by Mario Garza and approved 5-0. A copy of the corrected legal ads is made part of these minutes.

8. Presentation on MEDC Programs.

Director of Social Impact Cristina Garza gave a short presentation related to MEDC Programs. The first program she reported on was **Project Cyber Mission**, which we are currently completing the third and fourth cohorts. The fifth and sixth cohorts are being planned for the summer. A pilot program of CompTIA, this program certifies students that want to work in the technology field. The next program is **CREW**, a high school program for girls, is in its third year of initiation. This program teaches young women how to run technology programs and how to be leaders in the community. **Ruby Red Ventures**, our signature program, which got us a Texas Municipal League award, is a program that is currently inactive until its standards and expectations are revisited. **CSRgv** or **CSforAll**, a program that specifically funds ecosystems in computer science. We were the first of 10 ecosystems pick from around the country and the only one in Texas representing ecosystems computer science. This program is not a program designated to serve a particular amount of students or a particular school district, it is a program designated to put forward a regional approach in computer science. With this program, we are spearheading a coding event (Century Jam) in March for kids with autism and we would be the first city in the Rio Grande Valley to do so. The other half of this grant is being used for creating and distributing

these “Jam in a Box” sets, or a box that contain kits of materials for those that don’t know how to code, that they will need to create a coding event. These boxes will go to cities around the Rio Grande Valley from Laredo to Brownsville (upon request) and not just Mission, so that everyone gets an opportunity to experience these initiatives. **Coding Camps**, in the summer last year, Coding Camps were launched for girls and we are doing them again this year. This program is designated for middle school and high school girls and addresses other areas other than coding. Girls learn career development, mentorship, skill-building, and peer mentorship, to name a few. Ms. Garza said she was felt very enthusiastic and proud about the programs MEDC has not only developed, but also about those which have received awards and recognitions. No further comments were made.

9. Vice President’s Comments.

CEO Daniel Silva gave an update on the Killam Family Development Project. He mentioned that last week was a busy week at CEED because the Killam Family Development executives held a series of “Charrettes” or planning meetings with community involvement. Development planners were here putting together different plans that included living, business, transportation, parks to very packed schedules. They invited residents from the community including high school students and we had about 400 people at one point. We are looking forward to working with the Killam Family’s project planning.

10. Adjournment.

Secretary Aissa Garza moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mario Garza and approved 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

S. David Deanda, Jr., President

ATTEST:

Aissa I. Garza, Secretary