

FINAL MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2007, MEETING OF
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 12TH DAY OF APRIL 2007,
AT 8:30 A.M.
IN THE MCEDA CONFERENCE ROOM
OF THE 1855 COURTHOUSE IN CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

The meeting of the Madison County Economic Development Authority was conducted on the 12th day of April, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in the 1855 Courthouse in the City of Canton.

Members Present: Chip Estes, Thomas Johnson, Deborah Martin, Barbara Gray, John Almond and Dick Hutchinson. Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Mitch Stringer and Attorney Leslie Scott.

Guests: Jeff Aultman, Dianne Dyar, Donna Sims, Elizabeth Raley, Chad Wages, Keith Plunkett and Andrew Usifusi

At 8:35 a.m., Chairman Estes announced that the members present constituted a quorum and declared the meeting duly convened and directed that the notice for the meeting be filed with the minutes.

Mr. Estes made a request to move the BRE report up on the agenda, after which, Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. After a second by Mr. Almond, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Stringer presented forms utilized for LOIS and E-Synchronist. Mr. Stringer showed the contrast between an onsite form utilized for inquiry during the existing business visits and a completed form, which was also presented. Mr. Stringer discussed the E-Synchronist database used to input information gathered from the existing industry visits. He stated that this will prove helpful by remaining consistent with information gathered and maintained by other counties. Mr. Stringer reported that an industry reception is being discussed in cooperation with the Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt the March 8, 2007 minutes. After a second by Mr. Harrington, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. After a second by Mr. Johnson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Raley reported that the Madison County Foundation appreciated MCEDA's support at their Mid Year Meeting. The meeting began with a tour of the Nissan North America facility in Canton. This was followed with a County tour, and then with the mid Year

Meeting. The speaker for the event was Mr. Andy Taggart. There were approximately 230 people in attendance.

Mr. Harrington asked Ms. Raley when the Foundation's next opportunity would be to interact with Washington staffers. She replied that the Foundation would be going to Washington soon. She also stated the Foundation's Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2007. The speaker will be Governor Haley Barbour.

Ms. Raley also reported that MDOT has released funding for the Canton to Edwards Corridor for the purpose of an environmental study. The Foundation has released a statement about their position and would like to request that MCEDA offer a resolution of support of this effort for the Foundation to take to Washington in September. She further stated that the Foundation would love to meet with the town of Flora and share the Foundation's position. Mr. Estes asked if the Foundation is offering to come to the MCEDA Board to answer any questions pertaining to this project in order to secure support of a MCEDA resolution. It was determined that this is not necessary at this time since the Foundation is not requesting a resolution at this time. It was stated that the MCEDA Board should have input into the decisions made by the Foundation regarding this issue.

Ms. Raley inquired on the status of the Northeast Madison County Study. Mr. Coursey responded that a funding request has been sent to Congressman Bennie Thompson's offices. Mr. Paul Griffin is working with the congressman and staff to answer any questions.

Mr. Jeffery Aultman of the MS Department of Transportation discussed the mobility study. He serves as Project Manager for the study. He stated that there is a lot of growth and need in District 5 and not enough money for the need. A more strategic study was needed to pinpoint the traffic routes of commuter traffic. National expertise was brought in to define the study area. This study is ongoing. June 2007 is the initial date of completion.

Ms. Dianne Dyar stated that the Madison County Chamber of Commerce is working with MCEDA to plan an Existing Industry Appreciation Event. She stated that she is excited about the partnership between MCEDA and the Madison County Chamber. As a result of the Forklift Training Certification Courses sponsored by MCEDA, 150 employees have been trained.

She also reported that the Madison County Chamber Youth Leadership group completed a landscape design project at the Flora Industrial Park. On October 23, 2007 at the Hilton the Chamber will co-sponsor a meeting with MCEDA on the State of the Southeast Economy and how it affects Madison County.

Ms. Dyar stated that concerning existing industry appreciation events, she is conducting research to see what the industry desires. She further stated that by looking outside the box, incredible opportunities can be discovered. She would like the Chamber to develop a dialogue with MCEDA to develop a partnership to be the best in the state. The Madison County Chamber was chartered in 1921 and is the oldest Chamber in the county. It currently has 420 members.

Attorney Scott reported the legal team has focused on routine matters this month. She did report that the bill that allowed teleconferencing and a vote by phone with specific notice requirements did pass. However, the eminent domain bill did not pass.

Mr. Coursey requested travel authorization for Mitch Stringer to attend an Existing Industry Training Course, April 24-26 and the MEDA event in New York. There was a motion by Mr. Almond to approve the request for travel for Mitch Stringer. After a second by Mr. Harrington, the motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Gray asked why Ms. Knight was not included in the travel request. Mr. Coursey stated that he intends to swap staff out for out of town events.

Mr. Coursey reported that the contractor has completed work on the 16th Section road and will install the surface course of asphalt at a later date when most construction is complete, as recommended by the engineer.

Regarding the truck lease, the lowest bid was received from Duece McAlister Nissan with all the necessary criteria to be considered an acceptable bid, meeting all of the necessary specifications. Ms. Martin made a motion to accept bid from Duece McAlister Nissan as the acceptable bidder for a new lease truck. After a second by Ms. Gray, the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Coursey reported that a MCEDA Marketing Match Grant has been awarded to Flora for the purpose of advertising the resources of the City and County and requests have been received from Madison the City and Ridgeland for the same purpose.

He reported that regarding the Northeast Madison Initiative, MCEDA is in constant contact with Supervisor Paul Griffin and Congressman Bennie Thompson's office and will stay on the course. The Northeast Madison Initiative presentation to the Board of Supervisors has been moved to Monday, May 7th.

Ms. Knight reported on the Workforce Training Initiative stating that she had been in contact with Former Governor William Winter who was very interested in taking part in the ongoing discussion. Ms. Knight has invited Governor Winter to join her and Mr. Coursey in a meeting with Mr. Dave Boyer, Mr. Bob Mullins and Mr. Jeffery Webster on April 17, 2007 to further refine the program.

There was a motion by Ms. Gray and second by Ms. Martin to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the need for an Executive Session to address possible land sales, land acquisition and potential litigation. The motion passed unanimously. There was then a discussion of the need to go into Executive Session to consider the aforementioned, at the conclusion of which there was a motion by Mr. Johnson and a second by Ms. Martin to do so. This motion was adopted unanimously. Chairman Estes then opened the meeting to announce publicly that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss possible land sales, land acquisition and potential litigation. Chairman Estes convened an Executive Session for this purpose.

Ms. Gray made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. After a second by Mr. Johnson, there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the open session. The following actions taken in Executive Session were then reported by the Chair:

Ms. Martin made a motion to engage Mendrop Wages to identify parcels of property that would be available for purchase if necessary to replace the existing Flora Industrial Park. After a second by Ms. Gray, the motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to direct Mr. Coursey to select a NBAF presentation committee that represents Madison County. After a second by Ms. Gray, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Gray made a motion to allow Eastgroup Properties the right to purchase property where Tower Automotive is located for \$10.00 after ensuring a purchase investment of \$30,000,000.00. After a second by Ms. Martin, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to have an appraisal of Covington Street property completed. After a second by Ms. Martin, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to allow PK USA to renew an option on 17 acres, extending it 1 year past 2009, with 6 months. After a second from Ms. Martin, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to reject an offer from Southern Electric Corp. to purchase an entire 15 acres of land in the CCIC. After a second by Mr. Johnson, the vote passed with one abstention by Ms. Martin.

Final Minutes
April 12, 2007
Page 5

At 11:45, upon a motion made by Mr. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Almond and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

Bryan "Chip" Estes, Chairman

ATTEST:

Deborah Martin, Secretary-Treasurer