

FINAL MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2009, MEETING OF
THE MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD AND CONDUCTED ON THE 14TH DAY OF MAY 2009,
AT 8:30 A.M.
IN THE MCEDA CONFERENCE ROOM
OF THE MCEDA OFFICES AT 623 HIGHLAND COLONY PARKWAY,
RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI

The Special meeting of the Madison County Economic Development Authority was conducted on the 14th of May, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. in the MCEDA Office at 623 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS

Members Present: John Almond, Calvin Harris, Dick Hutchinson, Chip Estes, and Bob Williams

Also present were Tim Coursey, Lenita Knight, Mitch Stringer, and Taravia Seals and attorney Jim Streetman and Andy Clark

Guests: Bobbie McMurtry, Mayor Mary Butler, Steve Vassallo, and Jan Collins, Ruby Johnson

At 8:33a.m., Chairman Hutchinson 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. Almond made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Almond made a motion to adopt the April 9, 2009, minutes as presented. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey introduced Mayor Mary Butler. Mayor Butler shared information regarding Tulane University. Mayor Butler stated that Tulane plans to bring a satellite location as a pilot project to Madison County. It is estimated that there may be approximately 15 students per classroom and will explore curriculum for adult programs. Mayor Butler would like for MCEDA to partner with Madison the City and asked if MCEDA would consider contributing \$50,000.00 toward the renovations of the building for the satellite location.

Mr. Estes made a motion that MCEDA partner with Madison the City in the amount of \$50,000.00 to be used toward building renovations for the satellite facility of Tulane University in Madison County. After a second by Mr. Williams, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Jan Collins reported that the Madison County Business League has added 6 new members. Ms. Collins reported that the Business League has visited the town of Flora and Flora has adopted a resolution supporting the Business League. Ms. Collins also stated that plans are also being made for the first quarterly forum.

Mr. Coursey reported the MCEDA staff coordinated with Tax Assessor Gerald Barber and Chancery Clerk Arthur Johnston on all received ad valorem tax exemption requests. Requests were received from Capital Hardware, Primos, Levi's, Unipress, Euro American Plastics and Hederman Brothers. Mr. Coursey recommended consideration by the MCEDA Board of approval of the following:

Capital Hardware Co. Inc.

Primos Inc.

Levi Strauss & Co

Unipress Southeast USA Inc.

Euro American Investments, LLC

Mr. Almond made a motion that the MCEDA Board recommend the approval of applications for Capital Hardware Co. Inc., Primos Inc., Levi Strauss & Co., Unipress Southeast USA Inc., and Euro American Investments, LLC. After a second by Mr. Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Knight introduced the family of former MCEDA Board member Thomas Johnson. Ms. Knight made a presentation to Mrs. Ruby Johnson on behalf of MCEDA. MCEDA presented a framed MS State flag flown in the honor of Mr. Thomas Johnson at the State Capital and a letter from MS Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann as well as an engraved memorial plaque commemorating the service and dedication of Mr. Johnson to the Johnson family. Ms Knight stated that Mr. Johnson's dedication to MCEDA and the county were deeply appreciated. Mrs. Johnson stated that she appreciated the recognition and thanked MCEDA.

Mr. Coursey reported that each year MCEDA offers a Marketing Grant for the cities of Madison County. The grants are offered in the amount of \$2,500.00 to each city. Mr. Coursey inquired as to whether or not the board would like to continue this program. Mr. Harris made a motion to offer grants to each Madison County city by sending letters to each mayor with specified criteria for the grant application which will include a submittal from the mayors of how the grant funds will be allocated in their community. After a second by Mr. Williams the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Harris presented a proposal received by Solve Company for public relations consulting. The proposal includes an hourly rate of \$75.00 for issues of media relations and event support at \$75.00 per hour. Ms. Harris also presented a draft of a new MCEDA available services brochure designed by Suzie Jochinson. The brochure includes photos of Madison County which have been quoted at \$50.00 per photo included on the brochure. This is being negotiated. Ms. Harris also presented an advertisement run in the MS Business Journal. This ad was run next to an article by the Business Journal staff with an interview of Mr. Coursey.

Mr. Jim Streetman provided an update from the legal counsel stating that he has been working on day to day issues as needed with Mr. Coursey. This has included 16th section land options and work on the restrictive covenants.

Mr. Coursey reported that new carpet tiles were installed at the WIN Center where some tiles were flawed. These repairs were done at the expense of the manufacturer. Mr. Coursey also stated that the lease revision has been received from PK USA. This lease contains the terms specified by the MCEDA Board. Mr. Coursey will sign the lease on behalf of MCEDA. Mr. Coursey also stated that it is time to establish a budget committee for MCEDA for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Coursey reported that he has been working with Steve Seale, CMPDD, Paul Griffin and Woody Samples on a Stimulus package broad band Grant. The Madison County Board of Supervisors has asked MCEDA to take the lead on this process. This is an effort aimed toward securing grant funds to build out high speed internet into the Northeast portion of the county. The deadline for submitting the grant is at the end of July 2009.

Mr. Estes suggests that there may be another vehicle to use to secure broad band funding, possibly through the authority of the regulatory body of the PSC. Mr. Estes made a motion to authorize Attorney Jim Streetman to explore the regulatory rules of the PSC for assistance. After a second by Mr. Williams the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coursey reported that the appropriation request has been made through Senator Cochran's office for funding for the Northeast Madison County Lake Initiative. Mr. Coursey has also received confirmation from Mr. Ballwebber concerning overpayment of fees for services already rendered. Mr. Harris stated that he has talked with Mr. Ballwebber as well. He has been assured that at lake time line will be provided.

Mr. Coursey made a request for approval for travel for himself and Mr. Stringer to attend the Automotive News Manufacturing Conference in Birmingham, AL June 8, 9, 10, 2009. Mr. Estes made a motion to approve travel request for Mr. Coursey and Mr. Stringer to Birmingham, AL, June 8, 9,10,2009. After a second by Mr. Almond, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Stringer reported that he has met with Georgia Gulf concerning rail issues. He also has met with Polycon along with Mr. Coursey to discuss road overlays. Mr. Stringer stated that the Board of Supervisors has also met with Polycon to discuss the possibility of utilizing their services in Madison County. Mr. Stringer also reported that Canadian National has announced that they will be selling a portion of their rail road lines. Mr. Stringer will look into this further to see how it will affect Madison County.

Ms. Knight reported that she has continued to visit schools to make video presentations. Some of the presentations have been incorporated with school awards ceremonies. Because of the end of the school year some schools will not be able to accommodate presentations. Ms. Knight will work with the principals of the remaining schools to allow this presentation at the beginning of the coming school year.

Ms. Knight also reported that the Sister City Committee will continue to meet monthly in preparation for a Madison County visit to Japan. The committee has been reviewing processes of other cities, such as Birmingham that have completed this process. This will be used as a guide to determine the best way to move forward for Madison County. Ms. Knight stated that consideration is being made for Sister City membership through the World Trade Center and its benefits for the project. The committee is also looking at participant selection processes as well as time of travel considerations.

Chairman Hutchinson stated that he would like to recommend a budget committee to include the following members: Mr. Harris, Mr. Harrington and Mr. Almond.

There was a motion by Mr. Almond and second by Mr. Williams to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the need for an Executive Session to discuss land sales. 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. Williams and a second by Mr. Almond to do so. This motion was adopted unanimously. Chairman Hutchinson then opened the meeting to announce publicly that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss professional services. Chairman Hutchinson convened an Executive Session for this purpose.

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. After a second by Mr. Harris, there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the open session. Chairman Hutchinson reported that there were no actions taken in Executive Session.

At 10:12 a.m., upon a motion made by Mr. Almond, seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

