

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2021, BOARD MEETING OF THE  
MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD AND CONDUCTED AT 8:30 A.M.  
IN THE MCEDA CONFERENCE ROOM  
OF THE MCEDA OFFICES AT 135 MISSISSIPPI PARKWAY, CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

Members Present: Gerard Gibert, Doug Jones  
Members Attending by Zoom/Phone: Lanny Slaughter, Ed Gardner, Dwight Lockett  
Staff Present: Attorney Arthur Jernigan, Joey Deason, Stacy Lester, Lauren Scheel  
Staff Attending by Zoom/Phone: Taquana Mack  
Guests Present by Zoom/Phone: Lisa Williams  
Guest Present: Jan Collins, Chad Wages, Ben Thompson

8:35 a.m. Mr. Gibert announced that the members present in person and telephonically constituted a quorum and declared the meeting convened and directed that the notice for the board meeting be filed with the minutes. The Board members acknowledged by their attendance that they waived any formal notice of the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Jones led in prayer.

Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda. After a second by Mr. Gardner, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Gibert made a motion to approve the minutes of the MCEDA Board Meeting on December 10, 2020. After a second by Mr. Lockett the motion was unanimously approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Jones stated the financial reports and reconciliation reports have been reviewed and he recommends approval. Mr. Gibert made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. After a second by Mr. Gardner, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Jan Collins with the Madison County Business League and Foundation provided an update and report.

Mr. Deason presented two invoices for Southern Rock and Civil Link for the Project Pine Access Road payment. Mr. Lockett made a motion to acknowledge the payments. After a second by Mr. Jones, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Deason requested authorization and approval to hire Emily McConnell Harrison as the new MCEDA Office Manager/Receptionist at a salary of \$40,000 a year. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve. After a second by Mr. Gardner, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Deason requested approval for Southern Rock Invoice for Pay App for DRA related to the MegaSite access road. Mr. Jones made a motion to approve. After a second by Mr. Slaughter, the motion was unanimously approved.

In accordance with the by-laws, Vice-Chairman Gerard Gibert moved up to the Chairman position. Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Doug Jones moved up to the Vice-Chairman position. Mr. Doug Jones made a motion for Mr. Dwight Luckett to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. After a second by Mr. Lanny Slaughter, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Wages presented on Project Pine and requested authorization for Mr. Deason to advertise for construction once MDOT permits are approved.

There was a motion by Mr. Slaughter and a second by Mr. Jones to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the need for an Executive Session for the purpose to address the transaction of business and discussions or negotiations regarding location, relocation, or expansion of a business or industry. The motion passed unanimously. There was then discussion of the need to go into Executive Session to consider the aforementioned, at the conclusion of which there was a motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mr. Luckett to do so. This motion was unanimously adopted. Chairman Gibert then opened the meeting to announce publicly that the Board was going into Executive session to discuss transaction of business and discussions or negotiations regarding location, relocation, or expansion of a business or industry. Chairman Gibert convened by an Executive Session for this purpose. Mr. Luckett made a motion to adjourn Executive Session. After a second by Mr. Gardner, there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the open session.

The Board returned to regular session at which time the subject of Mr. Deason's current salary came before the Board. After discussion of same Mr. Gibert made a motion that Mr. Deason's salary be increased to \$300,000 annually with the same benefits. After a second by Mr. Jones the matter was unanimously adopted by the Board subject to Mr. Deason providing a current update on all pending economic development projects being considered by the Authority.

At 9:55 a.m. Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. After a second by Mr. Gardner, the meeting was adjourned.



Gerard Gibert, Chairman

  

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Dwight Luckett, Sr. (Feb 16, 2021 09:54 CST)

Dwight Luckett, Secretary/Treasurer