

CCIC: Past, present and future

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The following is the third of a series of articles informing the public on how the county's economic development effort is set up.

By Joe Phelps
Siftings Herald

In 2007, a group of community leaders formed the

Clark County Strategic Plan, a non-profit organization set up so the county could possibly see measurable, tangible results in growth by 2017.

One of its first and main goals was to push for a seven-year, 1/2-cent sales tax that would fund a public agency to consult with in-

dustries and, hopefully, get them to locate in Clark County to create new jobs and generate a growth in population.

After an overwhelming percentage of voters passed the tax, that public agency — the EDCCC — was born.

The Economic Development Corp. of Clark Coun-

ty acts much like a Chamber of Commerce, only it is funded by tax dollars rather than private dues from businesses and Chamber members. It is also on the same level as the Clark County Industrial Council, which also depends on private funds and memberships. The 1/2-cent sales tax is expected to

bring in \$1.25 million annually to fund the EDCCC, and is to be used only for economic development purposes.

Of that projected \$1.25 million, the Quorum Court formulated the EDCCC's operating budget. The

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budget is as follows:

70 percent for capital, incentives and reserve fund (\$875,000)

12 percent for business retention and expansion programs (\$150,000)

11 percent for administrative costs (salaries and benefits, employee-paid taxes and unemployment insurance) — (\$137,500)

7 percent for purposes of expected and normal operating expense (\$87,500)

The tax, however, has been collecting more than what was projected. About \$1.4 million was collected in 2008.

Five unpaid voting board members were appointed by County Judge Ron Daniell and approved by the Quorum Court to head the EDCCC. It was in the EDCCC's blueprints that the board include leaders who would provide equal representation for the entire county.

member would hold.

Shortly after the EDCCC was formed, Paul Harvel was hired as chief executive officer of the organization. Harvel was known throughout the state as a successful Chamber of Commerce president.