

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF CLARK COUNTY
May 26, 2008
Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: EUODIAS GOZA, CONNER ELDRIDGE,
BECKY JESTER, FRANCES NELSON, RANDY SORRELLS

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: LEWIS SHEPHERD, WESLEY
KLUCK, TOMMY ROEBUCK, PHIL BALDWIN, DAMOND DANIELS, BILLY
TARPLEY, KELLI LANDCASTER, WENDELL KETCHUM, TOM CALHOUN,
SHERRY KELLEY, ROSBORO HENDRIX, BILL WRIGHT, BILLY BUNN, KELLI
LANDCASTER, PERCY MALONE, RICKY NORTON, CLOYS RUNYAN

OTHERS PRESENT: TODD TURNER, DAN MARSH

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron Daniel
Joyce Palla
Randy Stewart
Steve Orsburn
Randy Turner (school board meeting)

Meeting called to order by EDCCC Chairman Goza at 5:35.

Motion by Conner Eldridge/second by Frances Nelson to approve the corrected minutes changing the typing error from bug hog to bush hog as e-mailed. Motion approved.

Chairman Goza proceeded with agenda items including the financial report presented by Phil Baldwin in the absence of Randy Turner. The financial statement as of April 30, 2008 reflected \$18,409 in the operating account and \$490,527 in the money market account for total assets of \$508,935.

Special Committee Report presented by Conner Eldridge, chairman of the EDCCC Transportation Subcommittee. The following transportation issues were discussed:

Primary Priority Project:

“Gateway Project” Improving, landscaping and widening Highway 67/7 from Caddo Valley to 10th and Caddo in Arkadelphia.

Phase I: Create University Parkway from 10th and Country Club to 10th and Pine; Replace two-lane bridge from over the Caddo River linking Caddo Valley and Arkadelphia with a new, four-lane bridge and improve

stretch of Highway 7 on either side of the bridge; Improve general presentation of ingress and egress on Interstate 30 exits 78 and 73.

Phase II: Addition of traffic light on eastbound I-30 off ramp in Caddo Valley; Improve and widen Highway 7 in Caddo Valley; Improve and widen Highway 7 from Caddo Valley to Country Club in Arkadelphia.

Phase III: Widen Pine Street in Arkadelphia to four lanes from 10th and Pine to 26th and Pine. Incorporate landscaping and medians where appropriate; Improve Caddo and 10th Street Intersection.

Additional Priority Projects:

- **New Ouachita River Bridge on Highway 7/8. Potential funding available for improvement of the safety of bridges. Research needed into potential funding sources.**
- **Amity Highway 84 and 182 Intersection – Highway 182 needs to be straightened in this area. A house in the curve poses a problem. Funding for additional research and discussion in the Amity area needed.**
- **Gurdon – Reconfiguration, landscaping, and improvement of Highway 53/Main Street on either side of the railroad tracks in downtown Gurdon. Funding for additional analysis and planning needed.**
- **Truck Bypass around the City of Arkadelphia. Truck traffic, particularly log trucks, pose noise, logistical, and traffic problems in downtown Arkadelphia. A new traffic plan for downtown is needed. Such a plan would ideally reroute large truck traffic while maintaining consumer traffic. This plan should be consistent with Arkadelphia's Comprehensive Development Plan. Funding for additional analysis and planning needed.**
- **I-30 Interstate Exits at County Club Road and/or Military Road. The City of Arkadelphia has submitted this project in the past and the highway traffic counts performed by the state were not high enough to allow these projects to move forward.**

The Transportation Subcommittee recommended the “*Gateway Project*” as the number one item on our list to present to the state highway officials. **Motion by Conner Eldridge with second by Frances Nelson.** The motion unanimously passed by the voting members.

Marketing Committee report presented by Wesley Kluck. He had done some research requested by Paul Harvel concerning population within fifty miles of Arkadelphia.

Site Committee report presented by Wendell Ketchum. Site clean up work had begun. One bid had been received from the M & D Construction Company for \$48,000.00. Wendell recommended that we accept this offer due to the high cost of diesel fuel. **Motion made by Conner Eldridge with second by Randy Sorrells. Motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Goza asks for other items not listed on the agenda. Those items are listed below:

Conner gave an update on Paul Harvell's salary not exceeding the budgeted amount. Additional income will come from private sources.

Bill Wright gave update on some industrial development interest in the County. The prospects are looking in the Gurdon, Amity, and the Arkadelphia areas.

Damon Daniels gave update on the town hall meeting in Amity with Paul Harvel. He also introduced the board to Mr. Cloys Runyan. Mr. Runyan is the Chairman of the new Amity Chamber of Commerce Board. Mr. Runyan is now a member of the EDCCC advisory board.

Sen. Malone talked about how our money can be spent.

Tommy Roebuck updated us on some talks he had with the Parks & Tourism officials.

Chairman Goza informed the group we need to have one person speak on our behalf at the meeting with the state highway officials. **Motion made by Frances Nelson with second by Becky Sorrells to have Conner Eldridge serve as our spokesperson. Motion approved.**

Motion by Randy Sorrells/second by Frances Nelson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.