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3 **SULPHUR SPRINGS-HOPKINS COUNTY**
4 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
5 **MONDAY, December 21, 2009**
6 **12:00 P.M.**

7 *A scheduled meeting and an executive session of the Sulphur Springs-Hopkins County Economic*
8 *Development Corporation was held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2009 at the EDC Office at*
9 *1200 Enterprise Lane, Sulphur Springs, Texas.*

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11 *Present: Carl Bryan, President*
12 *Tom Sellers, Vice President*
13 *Bobby Gillis, Sec/Treasurer*
14 *Gene Watson*

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16 *Absent: Clay Walker*

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18 *Staff: Roger Feagley, Executive Director*
19 *Carol Reid, Assistant*

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21 *Guests: None.*

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23 *Media: (no media)*

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25 **CALL TO ORDER**

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27 *President Carl Bryan called the scheduled meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.*

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29 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON November 23, 2009**

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31 *President Bryan requested from the board a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting held*
32 *on November 23, 2009. Tom Sellers moved to approve the minutes and Gene Watson seconded the*
33 *motion. The vote was unanimous and the minutes were approved.*

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35 **REPORT FROM BAWCUM & PREUSS COVERING EDC FINANCIAL for November, 2009**

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37 *President Bryan recognized the financial report as the next item on the agenda. As Mr. Bawcum was*
38 *not in attendance, President Bryan asked if there were any questions regarding the financials. After*
39 *some general discussion, Tom Sellers motioned to approve the financials. Gene Watson seconded the*
40 *motion. The vote was unanimous and the financials were approved.*

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42 **PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS RETENTION REPORT**

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44 *Director Feagley was recognized by President Bryan to give the Business Retention Report. The report*
45 *reflects some changes with a couple of businesses being removed and new ones added. Also, some of*
46 *the retention questions have been altered. Director Feagley stated, on a whole, he came away with a*
47 *more positive outlook than anticipated. There were a few companies that said the competition was*
48 *hurting them. One company said their facility and equipment is old and would take a substantial*
49 *amount of investment to get them up to date. This is somewhat worrisome news. However, we still*
50 *have the lowest unemployment in Northeast Texas; 2% lower than the State of Texas as a whole and*
51 *about 4% lower than the nation. From that perspective, we are not doing too badly when it comes to*

52 *unemployment. Director Feagley also went over some of the opinions expressed by a few of the*
53 *companies regarding advantages and disadvantages of doing business in Sulphur Springs. The thing*
54 *to remember is this information is just a snapshot of the thoughts of the people interviewed at that*
55 *moment but the majority of the information we received was positive.*

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57 **REPORT OF EDC ACTIVITIES**

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59 *Director Feagley updated the board on the activities and the meetings attended by the staff over the*
60 *preceding month and the plans for the following month. The annual audit of the EDC was brought to*
61 *the Boards attention as being much the same as last years. The Outlook Conference was attended by*
62 *300 people this year. Director Feagley stated he had received good comments about the conference.*
63 *There was some discussion on the meeting held regarding the telephone outage experienced by the*
64 *businesses of Sulphur Springs. Director Feagley felt there was a good turnout for the meeting and that*
65 *Verizon and AT&T has a plan to alleviate this type of occurrence in the future. It is something that will*
66 *need to be watched and followed up on. Director Feagley concluded his report with information*
67 *regarding the issuance of Tax Abatement Certification letters to six companies; he had received three*
68 *completed responses to-date. The rest were expected to respond before the deadline at end of the*
69 *month.*

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71 *President Bryan recognized the next item would be to proceed with the Executive Session. Director*
72 *Feagley stated he had no items for discussion and unless the board members had something to discuss*
73 *there would be no need for an Executive Session. As there was no response, President Bryan asked for*
74 *a motion to adjourn. Upon Tom Sellers making a motion to adjourn, all board members agreed to*
75 *adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting without going into Executive Session.*

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79 **ADJOURN**

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81 *Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.*