

Council Appoints 3 to SEDC Board of Directors

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One new and two holdover members of the Seminole Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors were appointed by members of the Seminole City Council, during the Council's regular semimonthly meeting held Monday evening at Seminole City Hall.

In a unanimous 6-0 vote, the Council approved of the appointment of Seminole residents Joe McGill, Sammy Zamora and Kevin Petty.

McGill and Zamora currently serve as members of the SEDC's Board of Directors, along with fellow board member Paul Elam, who's seat was up for re-appointment this two-year cycle.

Elam, according to City officials, didn't resubmit an application seeking appointment to the SEDC Board of Directors by the City's Dec. 15, 2011 deadline.

The SEDC, a department of the City of Seminole, was founded in 2003, works under a 4B corporation status as defined by the Development Corporation Act of 1979.

Under the Act, cities across the state of Texas were allowed to establish a corporation to administer the sales and use tax funds, and city voters must approve this special, dedicated tax at an election held for that purpose.

The SEDC operates on funding provided by a 1/2 percent of all sales tax allocations received by the City of Seminole from the Texas Comptroller's Office.

According to the Texas Comptroller's Office, 4B corporations may use funding for the recruitment and/or development of manufacturing and industrial facilities; research and development facilities; recycling facilities; distribution centers; small warehouse facilities and distribution centers; military facilities; primary job training facilities; corporate headquarter facilities; job training classes; career centers; telephone call centers; business infrastructure; airport facilities; and operation of commuter rail, light rail or commuter buses.

In addition, 4B corporations may also fund retail business incentives (if city population is less than 20,000); sports and athletic facilities; entertainment, tourist and convention facilities; public parks and related open space improvements; affordable housing; and water supply and conservation programs (with special voter approval).

On Oct. 1, 2011, the SEDC became a department of the City of Seminole, following a 4-3 vote by members of the SEDC's Board of Directors in mid-

August after a lengthy debate over the issue, in which voting members of the measure were seeking more accountability and supervision of the entity as a whole.

Also on Monday's agenda, Seminole City Council members approved the following agenda items:

- a request to tear down a structure in the 800 block of S. Main St.;
- a request to tear down a structure in the 200 block of S.E. Ave. E; and
- a request to write-off delinquent collection accounts from the Seminole EMS Dept.

Absent from Monday's meeting was Seminole Mayor Wayne Mixon. Seminole Mayor Pro-tem Rey Saldana presided over Monday evening's meeting in the Mayor's absence.

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