

## SEDC Confirms Hotel Negotiations; Council Could Learn, Vote on Issue Monday

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Adding more hotel room options within the Seminole city limits has been a pursuit of the Seminole Economic Development Corp. for the past several years.

According to a business item listed on the Seminole City Council's Monday evening agenda, members of the Council could "consider ratification of a SEDC board decision regarding incentives for a new hotel."

Monday evening's Council meeting, which is open to the general public, is slated for a 7 p.m. at Seminole City Hall, located at 302 S. Main St.

Donna Johnson, Executive Director of the SEDC, stated on Friday the corporation was in negotiations with potential hotel developers on a project, but declined to publicly provide details of the proposal.

"At this time, all I can say is that we have been in negotiations with potential developers about the possibility of bringing a hotel into Seminole," said Johnson.

"This is something the SEDC has been pursuing for several years as a way to add more hotel rooms to our community, on top of our current hotel choices."

Johnson stated her decision to not express details of negotiations was to ensure the privacy of negotiation process between the SEDC and developers until the point a potential deal could be finalized.

SEDC officials, on Wednesday, met in a called executive session to host negotiations with potential hotel developers.

Johnson stated the SEDC and developers were expected to meet again on Monday afternoon in the corporation's regular monthly meeting, to continue the negotiation process.

The SEDC, which 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).

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