

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MISSION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**AUGUST 13, 2024      12:00 PM**  
**CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**PRESENT:**

Richard Hernandez, President  
Estella Saenz, Treasurer  
Julian Alvarez  
Carl Davis  
Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

**ABSENT:**

Jose G. Vargas, Vice President  
Deborah L. Cordova, Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Greg Kerr, JGKL LLP

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tecló J. Garcia, CEO  
Belen Guerrero, COO  
Judy Vega, Executive Assistant  
Joe Salazar, Financial Officer  
Naxiely Lopez-Puente, Director of  
Communications & External Affairs  
Brianna Casares, Manager of Marketing &  
Programs

**1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum**

After establishing a quorum of the Board of Directors, President Richard Hernandez called the special meeting to order at 12:09 PM

**2. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of Resolution No. 2024-06, A resolution of Mission Economic Development Corporation regarding the request of Panda High Plains Hemp Gin Holdings, LLC, for the issuance of one or more series of revenue bonds; authorizing the filing of an application for allocation of volume cap for private activity bonds with the Texas Bond Review Board; authorizing public hearings regarding the bonds, and authorizing other action related thereto.**

CEO Tecló J. Garcia noted that upon approval of this resolution, it will not only benefit the Mission EDC through closing fees and annual administrative fees, but also with the creation of jobs.

Lee McCormick, President of Community Development Associates, via Zoom telecommunication, first thanked the Board for their availability, and then said that last week, he received a request from Panda High Plains Hemp Gin Holdings, LLC to move forward with an application for a bond allocation of \$150 million. Their deadline to apply is August 15, 2024.

The MEDC approved a Final Resolution for Panda High Plains Hemp Gin, LLC or one or more affiliates in September 2020 and a Supplemental Final Resolution increasing the amount

to \$150 million at the in October 2020 Board meeting. The company was scheduled to close the transaction by the end of 2020 but due to COVID related issues in the financial markets the project was delayed and did not close. The facility is currently operational, and the company plans to reapply for 2024 allocation from the Bond Review Board (BRB) to refinance existing debt and fund new capital improvements with tax-exempt bonds.

Mr. McCormick mentioned that there had been an update to the resolution in the Board's packets and that the replacement resolution had been provided to staff earlier today. The only change made to the resolution is on the heading. Added was "and Affiliates" meaning that Panda did not know yet if they were applying under Panda High Plains Hemp Gin LLC or Panda High Plains Hemp Gin Holdings, LLC, so they requested that flexibility.

The project is the first facility in the nation to cottonize hemp fiber on a commercial scale for the American textile industry and export customers. In addition, Panda Biotech's Hemp Gin™ is likely the only facility in the world dedicated to both the processing and cottonization of hemp fiber in industrial quantities outside of the People's Republic of China.

Panda Biotech has an existing 500,000 sq. ft. facility and surrounding 97-acre campus that was formerly the home of General Motors' Delphi assembly plant in Wichita Falls, Texas. The company is in the process of installing the largest industrial hemp decorticating, or processing, equipment ever used to separate the outer bast fiber from the inner woody core.

This is a conduit transaction for the MEDC, and the applicant is responsible for repayment of the debt. Approval of this resolution does not impose any payment or obligation on MEDC or the City of Mission in connection with the financing. There is potential "reputational risk" if the borrower defaults since the MEDC name is included on the bonds. Mr. McCormick and staff recommend approval of the resolution.

Carl Davis moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-06 as presented. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Estella Saenz and approved 6-0.

### **3. Adjournment**

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Estella Saenz and approved 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 PM.

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Richard Hernandez, President

ATTEST

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Deborah L. Cordova, Secretary