



BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 09, 2017

PRESENT: Billy Whisenant, Jerod Peek, Kirby Andrews, David Welch, Carolyn Lawrence, Ken Becker, Larissa Place, David Vela, Scott Fitzgerald, Joe Grant

CALL TO ORDER: 10:31 AM by Billy Whisenant

PRAYER: Jerod Peek

ACTION ITEMS:

MINUTES: Board to review and consider approving minutes from the December 2016 meeting. David Welch made the motion to approve the minutes. Carolyn Lawrence seconded. The motion carried.

FINANCIALS: Board to review and consider approving the November 2016 financial statements. Carolyn Lawrence asked for a breakdown of travel expenses. Patty Torres provided a revision to page 5 that all were satisfied with going forward. Jerod Peek made the motion to approve the financials. Kirby Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Board to review and consider approving accounts payables. Kirby Andrews made the motion to approve the accounts payables. Jerod Peek seconded. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: David Welch made the motion to go into Executive Session. Carolyn Lawrence seconded. The motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION: David Welch made the motion to re-enter Regular Session. Carolyn Lawrence seconded. The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE (David Vela): The board was updated on the following topics.

- David Vela provided an update on the sales tax numbers. He provided a breakdown of months. There were months in the beginning of the year that were even with the previous year. March and April were large increases and are not “normal” situations. The remainder of the year were mostly at a loss from previous year. If you take out the two large months we would be down 5.3% from the previous year. Even though that would not be the actual, David feels as though this is how we should be viewing the numbers. He is hopeful that oil/gas will increase and Nolan County will benefit from it.
- The Park Planning kickoff is Tuesday January 17th at 4:00 & 5:00pm. This session will be for invited guests and will be for asking questions. There will be other meetings in the future that will include the entire community.

MARKETING/ADMIN UPDATE (Larissa Place): The board was updated on the following topics:

- The website continues to be updated. This week the Utilities section was updated. Ken and Larissa went to all the local cell phone companies in Sweetwater to make sure the information was current and accurate.
- Speakers Bureau is still underway. We have the remainder of the school year scheduled. There are some dates that we are still working to find speakers but in good shape.
- Senior Interviews have been scheduled for Sweetwater for the week of May 1-5. Roscoe could not attend that week and they have been scheduled for the week of May 8-12. Continuing to work with Blackwell to make this a mandatory program. Will work with Highland to see if these weeks will work for them. We will then start working on getting the program organized and interviewers scheduled.
- Sally with Handlon Business Resources is working with Buzzi to organize a function for the completed projected. They believe it will be a smaller function that originally planned. They have asked for contacts in the area. Once we know more we will share the details.
- We continue to update our social media. Asked the Board to please like and share our posts as this will help our SEO. Also, we have posted job openings for Buzzi, EMA and CREST. Please share this information.
- PCCA – they handled 360,000 bales of cotton from 2015-2016. They are expecting 510,000 – 515,000 bales this year. They are comfortable at 350,000 bales but they will make this work. This will just increase machine time and employee time.
- We are currently working on a Logistics flyer. We have contacted local business in the logistics industry to include their information on what Sweetwater has available.



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EXEC DIR. UPDATE (Ken Becker): The board was updated on the following topics:

- Oil/Gas update – the price of oil continues to go up and down. TX count is up to 327 with the Permian Basin coming in at 267.
- EMA expansion – They are expecting to break ground within the next 30 days. They are now doing the expansion in phases. Phase two will include a second building.
- Buzzi expansion – The executives will be coming down for the March/April Buzzi Board Meeting.
- Fairmount Santrol is expecting an increase in sand with oil/gas increasing.
- Dent Trucking – they currently have 2 lease trucks right now. Brokerage is slow but expects that to pick up. He has not seen any slowdown from GP.
- Reminder of the Logistics Support Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday January 11th at 3:00.
- The 7-11 NAPA Store has been sold to Barron Services Company. They now own 25 stores and are very excited about this one. They plan to have the deal finalized by 2/1/17 and will lease the current building until they can build their own facility across Broadway.
- Wind – Leeward Energy will have GE take over the service of their turbines. The current employees must apply for the position with GE. But they don't believe there will be a huge change in numbers of employees.
- 85th Legislative Session starts January 10th.
- David Vela and Ken Becker had a meeting to discuss City and ED joint projects. They are working on getting speakers lines up to discuss different ED formats. They also intend to discuss a clean-up project of roadways in and out of Sweetwater.
- Rod Wetsel looked at the Logistics Support Liability coverage. He feels as though Sweetwater Economic Development is fully covered. However, he does suggest if there is a project like this in the future that we loan the money to the business instead of us purchasing so we don't own the equipment and liability.

David Welch would like an update from David Vela regarding the City's position on water, water treatment and the water tower. David Vela advised they had the ground breaking for the new water tower. The construction will start in the spring. They believe the new tower will be online by Jan/Feb 2018. They plan to apply for grants for the distribution lines. The membrane replacements have been ordered. They should be installed by spring. It was asked if we utilize ground water or surface water. David Vela advised we use both. The City is considering doing a workshop regarding water.

Billy Whisenant would like an update from David Vela regarding the landfill. David Vela advised he doesn't have much information at this time but will email out info once he has it.

Scott Fitzgerald introduced Joe Grant, a new reporter with the Sweetwater Reporter newspaper.

ADJOURN: Board to consider adjourning. There being no further business, Kirby Andrews made the motion to adjourn. Jerod Peek. The motion carried.