



BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2017

PRESENT: Billy Whisenant, Jerod Peek, Kirby Andrews, David Welch, Carolyn Lawrence, Ken Becker, Larissa Place, David Vela, Joe Grant, Catherine Wilks, Kristy Shaw

CALL TO ORDER: 10:27 AM by Billy Whisenant

PRAYER: David Vela

PRESENTATION: Catherine Wilks Financial Statement Review

- All this information is included in the City's Audit
- Presented fairly in all material respects.
- Shows original and amended budgets (no amended budget), Actual amounts, Variance, Prior Year, Cash Disbursements
 - Cash Disbursements : more land this year, Assistant's position, Incentives, TSTC Donation, Advertising/Marketing increase, Nolan County Sign, Net decrease in cash.
- Catherine does not feel any changes need to be made.

Jerod Peek made the motion to approve the Financial Statement Review. David Welch seconded. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION: Christie Shaw, the ECI Program Director with West Texas Centers/Little Lives Early Childhood Intervention stopped in to introduce herself and inform the members of her service. She will be submitting a Letter of Support for a grant. Nolan County is not currently an open county for the grant, but wanted to send in an application to show HHSC and DFPS that Nolan has a need for more resources. She will also be working with Rolling Plains hospital on a possibly family health event. She would like to help in any way with the new proposed park plan as she feels it will be a great resource for families.

ACTION ITEMS:

MINUTES: Board to review and consider approving minutes from the February 2017 meeting. Jerod Peek made the motion to approve the minutes. Kirby Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

FINANCIALS: Board to review and consider approving the January 2017 financial statements. Carolyn Lawrence made the motion to approve the financials. Kirby Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

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

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

- Sales tax numbers continue to go down.
 - Large audit last year which made drastic decrease. Even compared to 2015 the numbers are still down 18%
 - City will continue to hold off on spending and hiring excluding fire and police.
 - Capital projects may be postponed or cancelled.
 - Possible budget workshop in June.
 - Oil/Gas, Kmart closing contribute. As well as Buzzi construction completion.
- Parks Plan : the group in charge of the plan was in Sweetwater during Roundup weekend to witness the process.
 - Survey for community of Nolan County will go out to public soon.
- Kirby asked about baseball fields, bad parking due to little league park next to coliseum, collaboration with all groups. David advised this group will take all of those topics into consideration and be part of the plan.
- Water Tower is ahead of schedule. Should be complete by November/December
 - David Welch asked if ground water quality has been checked. David Vela advised tests have been done for free and the City will receive a report.



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

- Ken and Larissa have written an article that will be published in Expansion Solutions magazine. This article describes Sweetwater as the prime location for more logistic opportunities.
- Speakers Bureau is almost coming to a close. Have dates set for March and April.
- Senior Interviews have dates. SHS and Blackwell will be at SHS May 2-3. Roscoe and Highland will be at Roscoe the second week in May.
- We have been providing assistance on property searches for two companies wanting to come to Sweetwater. Both for short term leases.
- Ken met with a business writer from London regarding wind industry. He also met with WETS.
- Ken also met a group from Denmark doing a video on the wind industry. They did interviews with Rod Wetsel as well as Louis Brooks.
- Mentioned an article in the West Texas Times describing position changes within the oil industry.

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

- Unemployment numbers have climbed. Buzzi still has opening. Will consider training to help fill open positions.
- Ken met with the new plant manager at Buzzi. He will be living in Sweetwater.
- Ken and David Vela have been working together to come up with dates for a joint meeting.
- Ken met with the new GP manager. This location tends to have a high turnover rate. The new manager will live in Abilene.
- Larissa and Ken met with Morgan Real Estate. Even though we were informed that all available property will be listed on the MLS, if there is no current contract it won't be there. We will continue to monitor the properties not on MLS as best we can.
- Ken attended the TxDOT freight mobility plan meeting. The number of tons on the roads will double from 2014 to 2040.
- We have reached out to state representatives regarding logistics.
- The TxDOT meeting regarding the bridge closing revealed the project will let in August. They plan to start in November or December and it should take 8-12 months.
- Chapter 313 may be in trouble. Ken has requested letters from all four schools in our County and will send them to representatives.
- EMA expansion has red iron up. We will speak to their OSHA representative regarding possibly speaking with manufacturers.
- GFS wind blade recycling will be shredding/grinding blades to recycle. They have property on 70 just south of town.
- Ken presented at Rotary.
- Ken and Larissa met with Altura – learned about their local business. They too are looking to hire.
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EXECUTIVE SESSION: Kirby Andrews made the motion to go into Executive Session. Jerod Peek seconded. The motion carried.

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

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