

August 21, 2023
Yoakum City Hall
Conference Room – 5:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING OF THE YOAKUM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESENT: Layne Brandt President
Whitney Boone Vice-President
Linda Schmidt Secretary
Carl O'Neill Director
Michael Trojcak Director
Tanya Wenzel Director
Genora Young Executive Director
Theresa A. Bowe City Clerk

ABSENT: Pam Ward Director

The was called the meeting to order at 11:34 APM.

Motion by Secretary Schmidt to approve the minutes from the meeting of July 24, 2023 as corrected indicating Director Pam Ward as present at the August 2023 meeting. Second was made by Director Wenzel and motion carried unanimously.

Review was held of Quarterly Financial Report. Executive Director Young provided the detailed report and information regarding the budget. Debbie Gray, Director of Finance was present to provide information and was introduced to the Board. President Layne Brandt arrived at 11:37 AM. Budget adjustments were requested. The Texas Downtown Association dues are to move from the City's line items to the EDC Board's expenditures under the Dues and Membership Fees. Website budget options were provided. The Request for Proposals will be ready for review by the Marketing Committee by August 25, 2023. The Board requested moving forward that finance reports be submitted monthly rather than quarterly. Motion by Director O'Neill to approve the Financial Report as presented. Second by Secretary Schmidt; motion carried unanimously.

Review was held regarding the 2024 YEDC Budget. Line items were discussed and outlined. Vice-President Boone arrived at 11:52 AM. Motion to recommend approval of the YEDC 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget to City Council as presented was made by Director Trojcak. Second was made by Director Wenzel; motion carried unanimously.

Request for Proposals for YEDC website design, hosting, and maintenance is scheduled to be presented for Board review at the August 28, 2023 meeting.

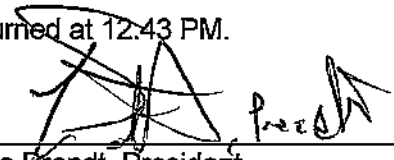
Under the Executive Director's Report, information was presented regarding the Business Retention Expansion Ambassadors meeting. A virtual meeting was held including representatives from Canada and Australia outlining challenges, and providing suggested resources. ED Young presented a Rotary program on August 16, 2023. Information was presented from the Joint Council/YEDC meeting. A status of grant application for Industrial Park II to the Economic Development Administration through the Disaster Assistance Supplemental Program was provided. Notification that our application is moving forward through the process has been received. Information was provided regarding the Economic Development Administration Re-Compete Pilot Program (Strategy Development Grants, Phase I). The program targets distressed areas and addresses gaps in the prime age employee group of 25-54. Funding will cover 100% of the cost if the grant is approved. Yoakum staff is partnering with Yoakum, Gonzales, Hallettsville, Cuero, Jackson County, Gonzales County, DeWitt County, and Lavaca County. Yoakum would not be competing against our neighbors. The group is looking at utilizing CSRS for the consulting services.

The project will be competing for Phase I of the grant. ED Young will email Board members with the details. The event will be held at the JB Wells Expo Center in Gonzales, Texas. A report on University of Houston - Small Business Development Center (UHV SBDC) Outreach Program was provided. The agency is working to revitalize the program and plan to be in our area the 3rd Wednesday of each month and will be utilizing the downtown YEDC office to meet with local businesses. Information was presented regarding continuing education hours for the executive director for recertification for PCED and BREP.

President Brandt announced that the Board would enter into Executive Session at 11:59 AM to deliberate regarding economic development negotiations with Kaspar Horse Barn/Welhausen Legacy dba Circle Y (V.T.C.A., Gov. Code, Sec. 551.087). The meeting reopened to the public at 12:28 PM with the discussion following. Information was presented by representatives from Kaspar Horse Barn/Welhausen Legacy dba Circle Y. Circle of Yoakum has been purchased by the company. Mr. Greg Chumcal indicated that Circle Y has a great brand, great people, and they are looking for a strategy to grow the company. The representatives indicated that the company would like to be a part of the community. Additional information was presented and questions were posed and addressed. This will continue to provide 148 employees in the City of Yoakum. After discussion, Director Wenzel made a motion to approve the grant application \$250,000 for 50% match of the \$500,000. Second was made by Director Trojcak and motion carried unanimously.

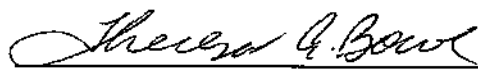
Motion by Director O'Neill to set public hearing date for Monday, August 28, 2023 at 12:30 PM in coordination with the application from Kaspar Horse Barn/Welhausen Legacy dba Circle Y. Motion was seconded by Vice-President Boone and carried unanimously. First reading of the resolution by Council will be held on August 30, 2023; second reading is scheduled for September 12, 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:43 PM.



Layne Brandt, President

ATTEST:



Theresa A. Bowe, City Clerk

