

January 18, 2021
Yoakum City Hall
Conference Room – 11:30 AM

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE YOAKUM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESENT: Gery Maneth..... President
Whitney Boone..... Vice-President
Arthur Hermann..... Secretary
Sean Mooney..... Director
Anita R. Rodríguez..... Director
Linda Schmidt..... Director
Terry Stokes..... Executive Director
Kevin M. Coleman..... City Manager
Theresa A. Bowe..... City Clerk

ABSENT: None

President Maneth called the meeting to order at 11:31 AM and guests were welcomed.

Director Rodriguez made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2020 as presented. Motion was seconded by Director Mooney and carried unanimously.

City Manager Coleman provided information regarding the Quarterly Financial Report. Director Mooney made a motion to accept the report as presented. Second was made by Director Rodriguez; motion carried unanimously.

Revisions to proposed budgetary implementation related to transitioning from the existing grant programs to the new proposed grant programs were reviewed. Year-to-date expenses for existing grant programs were provided. Funding has been reallocated to the new programs with the total budget expenditures remaining the same. After discussion, Director Rodriguez made a motion to accept the proposed budgetary revisions as presented. Motion was seconded by Director Mooney and carried unanimously.

Under the President's Report, President Maneth provided an update on recently purchased property at 306 Irvine Street. The contractor is scheduled to be on site on January 23rd or 24th to begin demolition. Removal of the structure will begin the following day. Director Mooney presented information regarding the volunteer code enforcement program previously proposed. Ambassadors involved in the program would be unable to remain anonymous which discourages those interested in participating, and training for the volunteers would be a large portion of the program and could overwhelm the Code Enforcement officials on staff. He indicated that he would like to review the possibility of increasing the staff in the Code Enforcement Department. The cleaning of the underpass was discussed: a bid was received by City staff from Weaver & Jacobs Constructors of Cuero, Texas in the amount of \$92,000. The Texas Department of Transportation committed to assisting with the control of traffic during the project but would not assist with funding or maintenance. Discussion was held regarding assistance from the YEDC for funding the project. President Maneth questioned the responsibility for funding of City maintenance issues by the YEDC as opposed to being financed entirely through the City budget. The scope of the project was discussed. Comments from President Maneth were received concerning areas of blight, including the underpass, not being maintained by the City.

Motion by Director Rodriguez to approve the creation of a Finance Committee and the associated charters as presented. Second was made by Director Mooney. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-President Boone made a motion to appoint President Maneth, Director Mooney, and Director Schmidt to the Finance Committee. Motion was seconded by Director Rodriguez and carried unanimously.

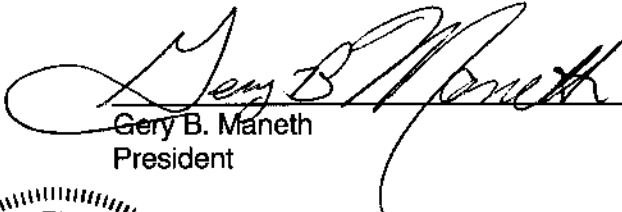
Motion by Director Schmidt to approve the creation of the Recruitment and Nomination Committee and its associated charter, and appoint Director Rodriguez as Chair of the Committee. Secretary Hermann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Rodriguez made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Marketing and Communications Committee Charter as presented. Second was made by Director Schmidt and motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding candidates for filling the open position on the Marketing and Communications Committee. After discussion, Director Mooney made a motion to appoint Mitchell Franz, David Weber, and Jim Brzozowski to the committee. Second was made by Secretary Hermann; motion carried unanimously.

Under the Executive Director report, information was presented regarding the possibility of reinitiating the Emergency Economic Sustainability and Resilience Program to assist local businesses. President Maneth indicated that the Board will wait on implementing any local benefit packages until Federal initiatives were put in place. Discussion of sponsorship of the Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of DeWitt County's Founding was tabled by President Maneth for a future meeting. Program information was presented for the strategic planning and implementation of the new grant and incentive programs. An update was provided on the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission's Yoakum-related activities including regional economic development and marketing programs and information regarding global marketing consultants. Economic development related news articles from the past month were presented for review.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:51 PM.


Gery B. Maneth
President

ATTEST:


Theresa A. Bowe, City Clerk

