

April 20, 2020
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran
Church
Parish Hall – 11:30 AM
City Hall

REGULAR MEETING OF THE YOAKUM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESENT: Gery Maneth.....President
Whitney Boone.....Vice-President
Arthur Hermann.....Secretary
Tommy Barre.....Director
Anita R. Rodríguez.....Director
Elorine Sitka.....Director
Terry Stokes.....Executive Director
Kevin M. Coleman.....City Manager
Theresa A. Bowe.....City Clerk

ABSENT: Zenith Stevens.....Director

President Maneth called the meeting to order at 11:31 AM.

Motion by Director Sitka to adopt the minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2020 as presented. Second was made by Director Barre and motion carried unanimously.

Review was held of the Sales Tax Comparison Report received based on numbers from the Texas State Comptroller. Discussion was held.

Under the President’s Report, information was presented from the Executive Committee regarding funding assistance for local businesses as a stimulus package to assist with problems caused by the COVID-19 issue. The recently formed committee will review funding options and bring recommendations to the Board for consideration and action. Members will be meeting on an as needed basis and provide detailed reports to the Board from those meetings. Details were provided to the Board.

A report was received from the Marketing and Communications Committee for review of the proposed committee charter. Vice-President Boone presented details. The committee currently consists of Board Members Stevens, Barre, and Vice-President Boone. The concept of the committee is to provide leg-work for specific projects such as branding, messages, public relations, website update, etc. No more than three Board Members will serve on the committee with recommendations being brought to the YEDC for final consideration. After review and discussion, Board Member Sitka made a motion approve the forming of both the Executive Committee and the Marketing and Communications Committee as amended; granting the Executive Committee the power to review and approve/deny emergency economic relief applications on their behalf in order to expedite the process and get funding to the approved business applicants. The committee is currently considered to be an ad-hoc committee of the Board. If the Directors wish to establish the Executive Committee as a permanent committee of the YEDC’s Board of Directors, an update to the Corporation’s bylaws and subsequent approval by the City Council would be required. Second was made by Board Member Hermann; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Board Member Rodriguez to appoint Vice-President Boone as Chairperson to the Marketing and Communications Committee. Motion was seconded by Board Member Sitka and carried unanimously.

Under the Executive Director report, an update was provided on the YEDC’s Strategic Planning Project. The timeline was amended and the economic resilience package will move up in the process. The different phases of the plan were discussed in detail. Consensus of the Board to

delay the community outreach portion of the plan until the COVID-19 issue has dissipated. Information was presented on the Stage Stores, Inc. (parent company of the former Bealls Department Store). The financial situation of the company has made it probably impossible for the company to retain the local store in Yoakum. Dollar stores may be approached to negotiate use of the location. Review was held of the proposed Economic Resilience Framework. The program will look for ways to assist businesses and the YEDC Board to bounce back from situations like the current COVID-19 issue. Information was presented and subjects were outlined indicating the YEDC role pre- and post-disasters. Toolboxes will be distributed to businesses both in English and in Spanish including a hurricane toolkit. This project will hold small businesses to prepare and recover from disasters including hurricanes, floods, power outages, etc.

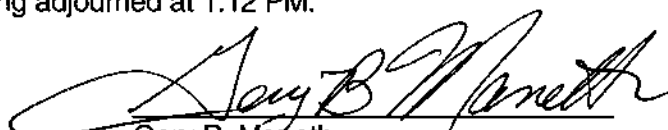
Under the City Manager's Report, discussion was held regarding the revisions to the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year YEDC Budget to accommodate recruiting expenditures, executive director's relocation package and salary, car allowance, phone allowance, strategic plan, historic district application project, and corporate memberships to various organizations. Action was taken on this subject after Executive Session.

President Maneth announced that the Board would enter into Executive Session at 12:02 PM to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property (V.T.C.A., Gov. Code, Sec. 551.072). The meeting reopened to the public at 1:10 PM with the following action resulting from Executive Session:

Motion by Board Member Sitka to approve a recommendation to the City Council for the revision to the 2019-2020 YEDC Budget to accommodate recruiting expenditures, executive director's relocation package and salary, car allowance, strategic plan, corporate membership to various organizations, and additional funding for the Economic Resilience, Sustainable and Economic Recovery grant programs in the amount of \$500,000, and to approve a public hearing as needed. Motion was seconded by Board Member Hermann.

Board Member Sitka provided information regarding an occupational education program and encourage the development of such a program. A request was made to research the possibility of partnering with the Yoakum Independent School District to develop programs to assist students that will not be taking the path to college.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:12 PM.


Gery B. Maneth
President

ATTEST:


Theresa A. Bowe, City Clerk

