

June 15, 2020
Yoakum Community Center
Banquet Hall – 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
Tommy Barre..... Director
Anita R. Rodríguez..... Director
Elorine Sitka..... Director
Zenith Stevens..... 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 11:39 AM. Guests were welcomed.

Motion by Director Sitka to adopt the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2020 as presented. Second was made by Secretary Hermann and motion carried unanimously.


Under the President's Report, information was provided regarding the Executive Committee's meetings. A written report of businesses awarded grants were provided for review for a total of \$101,000 awarded; \$399,000 remain in the recovery grant programs to-date uncommitted. An overview was provided of grant applications that have been provided to businesses, those who have submitted paperwork, those under review, and those applications that have been approved. The Executive Committee thanked the Board for the confidence in allowing them to award the grants: it has expedited the application process. Questions were posed and addressed. Discussion was held regarding setting a deadline for the application submission. Executive Director Stokes reminded the Board that the original program approved by City Council included a stipulation the program would conclude on either (1) no later than December 31, 2020, (2) the approved funding pool was exhausted, or (3) the YEDC's Board of Directors felt the emergency relief program had achieved its objectives. Discussion was held regarding maintaining the requirement that businesses applying for the emergency economic relief grants must have incurred at least a 25% loss of revenue since the March 1, 2020 disaster declaration, and after a brief discussion, the consensus of the Board was to maintain this requirement.

Under the Executive Director report, review was held of the recovery grant programs that had been awarded. Executive Director Stokes indicated that he would be communicating with the business owners that have received applications but have not yet returned them to determine if they need additional assistance with completing the application. Executive Director Stokes made note of his observations and lessons learned in the first six weeks of the emergency relief program including having both English and Spanish versions of grant applications ready to go ahead of emergencies such as hurricanes and extended power outages. Mr. Stokes further noted that once the current crisis was over, the YEDC will need to consider implementing programs to assist businesses with establishing alternative methods to delivering their services as well as establishing an e-commerce presence. Information was presented on encouraging businesses to move toward technology and


how the YEDC may be able to assist with training in the areas of business strategic planning and marketing once the current crisis was over. A suggestion was made by Director Rodriguez to reinstate the Lunch and Learn Program and then follow up with training classes. Executive Director Stokes indicated that he would be working with the Marketing and Communication Committee on fine-tuning the YEDC's communications with the Yoakum business community.

President Maneth announced that the Board would enter into Executive Session at 12:18 PM to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property (V.T.C.A., Gov. Code, Sec. 551.072), and to discuss and deliberate the application of economic development incentives (V.T.C.A., Gov. Code, Sec. 551.087). The meeting re-opened to the public at 1:25 PM with the following action resulting: Motion by Vice-President Boone to require a completion deadline of September 1, 2020 for the submission of grant applications for the emergency economic relief program. Motion was seconded by Director Rodriguez and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM.


Gery B. Maneth
President

ATTEST:


Theresa A. Bowe, City Clerk

