

June 17, 2019
Conference Room – 11:30 AM
City Hall

REGULAR MEETING OF THE YOAKUM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESENT: Gery Maneth..... President
Anita R. Rodriguez..... Vice-President
Arthur Hermann..... Secretary
Elorine Sitka..... Director
Tommy Barre..... Director
Whitney Boone..... Director
Kevin M. Coleman..... City Manager
Chuck Dart..... Director of Economic Development
Theresa A. Bowe..... City Clerk

ABSENT: Zenith Stevens..... Director

President Maneth called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM.

Motion by Director Sitka to adopt the minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2019 as presented. Second was made by Director Hermann and motion carried unanimously.

Information was presented for the YEDC Financial Report from City Manager Coleman. After review and discussion, Director Boon made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion was seconded by Director Rodriguez and carried unanimously.

The June Sales Tax Comparison Report was presented for review and discussion was held.

Representatives from the Community in Schools of the Golden Crescent were present to provide a presentation regarding the agencies outreach program at the Yoakum High School. Leroy Holmes provided detailed information on the services provided to students through this national based organization. The goal of the program is to prevent drop out, identify "at-risk" students, and bring services to assist those children to the school the students are attending. The organization provides meals, glasses, medical care, clothing, and mentoring to the children. The program has been in Yoakum since March of 2019. The Yoakum High School site coordinator, Genesis Flores, was also present to provide information regarding the Yoakum School District and the children she has been able to assist; bringing awareness to the community and the school of the children's needs. She assists the children with setting goals and works with the Texas Workforce Commission on training. Rita Williams was present from the Cuero office providing information on assisting these individuals with food stamp assistance and Medicaid services. The Board posed questions and thanked the representatives for the information.

Consideration was held regarding a Retail Enhancement Grant for City Drug of Yoakum, Inc. of Yoakum, Texas. Ray Raley was present representing City Drug of Yoakum, Inc. Information was presented regarding the project to provide additional signage for the location. Grant request is for 50% of the roughly \$8,200 cost of the installed sign. After review and discussion, Director Rodriguez made a motion to award a grant in the amount \$4,101.60 to City Drug of Yoakum, Inc. Motion was seconded by Director Hermann and motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the status of the wayfinding signage to local points of interest project. Twelve destinations have been decided upon. There will be 11-13 signs considered. Details

were reviewed on the points of interest to be identified with the signs; feedback was received. An appointment with TxDOT for sign approval is forthcoming.

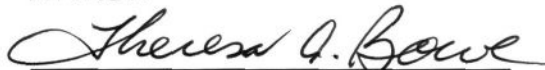
A report was provided on the discussion between the Director of Economic Development Dart and YEDC Board Chair Gery Maneth with Yoakum Independent School District Board of Trustees regarding economic development opportunities. The US Army Reserve armory complex is of interest as a training facility for the Yoakum ISD for vocational trade training. The buildings are in good condition; asbestos may be an issue to deal with. The facility sits on five acres and is owned by the Department of the Army. Utilizing this facility would assist with the vocational training of "at-risk" students that may not have college attendance in their future. DED Dart was instructed to make contact with other area cities that have been through the process of obtaining similar facilities, specifically Gonzales, Texas.

Under the Directors Report, DED Dart provided a written report including retail activity, publicity, downtown activity, small business activity, administrative activity, grants, tourism, workforce, and housing. A suggestion was made to have a "walking meeting" in the downtown area in July to review the areas in greatest need of sidewalk renovation and to tour the old Yoakum National Bank building being renovated by Tim Bulot. A suggestion was made to have an engineer review the area with the Board in order to provide information on the project and answer questions as they arise. Staff is expecting results from the submission to the National Register District very soon. Celebration and promotion plans were discussed including the possibility of a plaque presentation. A committee will provide additional assistance with the planning of the event. Information was provided from City Manager Coleman regarding the overall budget to be placed on the agenda for the July meeting. Specific items to be reviewed will be the bonus program outlined for the Director of Economic Development. President Maneth requested written goals from Board members to be provided to himself or City Manager Coleman prior to the July meeting.

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


Gery B. Maneth
President

ATTEST:


Theresa A. Bowe, City Clerk

