

JOINT MEETING OF THE YOAKUM CITY COUNCIL  
and  
THE YOAKUM ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Monday, November 20, 2017  
City Hall Conference Room – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Anita R. Rodriguez..... Mayor/YEDC Vice-President  
 Elorine Sitka..... Mayor Pro-Tem  
 Rodney Jahn..... Councilmember  
 Tim McCoy..... Councilmember/YEDC Director  
 Carl O'Neill..... Councilmember  
 Kevin Coleman..... City Manager  
 Kenneth E. Kvinta..... City Attorney  
 Theresa A. Bowe..... City Clerk  
 Chuck Dart..... Director of Economic Development  
 Sandra Jacob..... Director of Finance

Gery Maneth..... President  
 Arthur G. Hermann III..... Secretary  
 Tommy Barre..... Director  
 Whitney Boone..... Director

ABSENT: Zenith Stevens..... Director

MAYOR Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and welcomed the YEDC Board. Information was presented by YEDC President Maneth and Director of Economic Development Chuck Dart indicating the current YEDC priorities including the National Register District currently being developed, attempting to increase the attractiveness and welcoming atmosphere of downtown, being proactive by approaching downtown property owners with ideas, increasing the understanding of the benefits of the National Register District and the credits that can be obtained through that program (details of the program were provided), consider developing ordinances to establish standards for the appearance of the downtown buildings and consider ordinances establishing regulations for vacant buildings, consider the possibility of incubator buildings to encourage new businesses (i.e. coffee shops, delis, etc.), and consider additional parking/possibly removing unproductive buildings to create parking lots for easier access for patrons.

Regarding residential issues, the YEDC Board has received information from multiple downtown property owners that the upper levels of the buildings may be rehabilitated into living quarters to be leased. Discussion was held regarding the access to the upper levels by tenants that may be retiring to the community. The potential for development of subdivisions was discussed; suggestions were made to possibly repeal the requirement for curb and gutter in new subdivision – Council would review and consider. Priorities were discussed.

Retail development was discussed. Suggestions were made for new retail outlets including coffee shop and deli in the downtown area, renovating the vacant Alco Building located on Highway 77A into a multi-event facility, and bringing in additional entertainment venues.

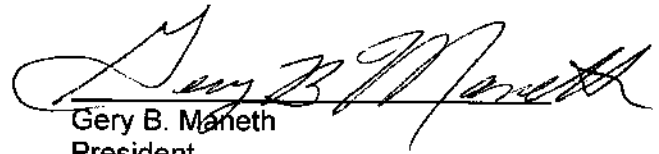
Concerning Industrial goals, suggestions were made for the YEDC Board to consider purchasing land for a future industrial park, begin the search for companies that could bring approximately 20 jobs to the community (possibly and machine shop or manufacturing company), and develop a vision for the City for the Boards to work toward.

The grants being developed or pursued for Eddy Packing expansion were reviewed: a representative from the Texas Department of Agriculture is schedule to meet with City and Eddy Packing representatives on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 to review details and outline a rough timeframe.


Discussion was held regarding the next actions to be taken and priorities were outlined: 1) focus on downtown area and retail will be priority number one; 2) develop new housing stock; and 3) continue with the removal of the dilapidated buildings/houses.

Mayor Rodriguez thanked the Boards for meeting and the interest exhibited to build and improve Yoakum. The next meetings will be scheduled in April and October of 2018.

THERE being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

  
Gery B. Maneth  
President

Attest:

  
Theresa A. Bowe  
City Clerk

