



Wood County Economic Development Commission

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Minutes September 3, 2020
Meeting of
Wood County Economic Development Commission at
5:30 p.m.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Attendees: Jim Berry, Tom Callan, Allene Doggett, Neal Duncan, Greg Hollen, Tom Keenan, Vic Savelli, Mike Simmons, Lee Smith, Gwendolyn Winters, Roger Johnson. Quorum Present.

Members not present: Rodney Kieke, Craig Lindholm, Greg Hollen.

Others Present: Judge Hebron.

Citizen Comment: Judge Hebron welcomed Lee Smith as the newest member of the EDC Board and presented him with a member certificate of the Wood County Economic Development Commission to fill the unexpired term of Tom Brown. It was also noted that Gwen Winters has again become an active member of the Board.

Consent Agenda:

Consider and act on minutes from August 6, 2020, board meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: The financials were discussed with a question raised if HOT fund revenue was on a monthly or quarterly basis.

A motion was made to change the annual report to Commissioner Court from the fiscal year to the calendar year for 2020 only. A motion was made and seconded to approve that change. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Agenda:

Consider and act on the approval of the East Texas Council of Governor's program for the strategic plan for the development of broadband. A motion was made and seconded to approve the payment of the total three-year commitment of \$3,498. The motion carried unanimously.

Discuss recommendations for the Transportation and Infrastructure committee program.

A report of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was presented by chairperson Lee Smith.

Discuss the process and progress of the Wood County Business Relief Program. The total relief for both phase one and two amounted to \$103,350. The remaining \$96,650 was slotted to go back into our UCC funds. A discussion of the amount of progress we had on phase one and phase two followed. The board felt there was not as much participation as we thought there would be. Doing phase three was not ruled out.

A vote on the WEDC officers for 2020-2021 was presented to the board. It was decided to keep the the current slate of officers in their present positions because the board had just made that vote recently in May.

Reports

Chairman's Report:

Report was made by Chairman Tom Keenan under the business agenda. Neal Duncan and Tom Keenan are searching for a program that the committee chairs can use to measure and track the metrics involved in their functional areas of concentration. If we can track the improvements of such things as better cell phone coverage, improved educational opportunities, business retention, and expansion increased tourism, improved government interaction, improved healthcare, and lower crime rates, and we can then point toward an improved quality of life in Wood County. All our committee efforts will also help us develop a County Master Strategic Plan. We have to project what Wood County's population will be in 20 years and begin to prepare for it.

Transportation and Infrastructure committee was presented by Chairperson Lee Smith. Lee Smith had made his report on the Transportation and Infrastructure committee under the business agenda.

The Chairman of the marketing committee, Vic Savelli, gave the marketing program he had put together for carrying out the purpose of his committee to market Wood County.

Director's Report:

Work on the relief fund is almost done. I had lunch with Tom Mullins and David Gonzales to plan for a future meeting to bring in new businesses. We discussed the Quilt Festival for Quitman and Wood County in September of 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Door Prizes were presented by Judge Hebron after adjournment.

Three Cheese Cakes prizes were handed out - Tom Keenan, Vic Savelli, and Mike Simmons were the winners.

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