

**WOOD COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION**

December 6, 2018

Regular Meeting Minutes

First United Methodist Church

Quitman, Texas

**Members Present:**

Gerald Elliott	Ben Hudman	Martha Scroggins	Sam Scroggins
Allene Doggett	Pat Hamlett	Joanne Wisdom	Theresa Margos
Robby Fair	JR Simpson	Neal Duncan	

**Members Not Present:**

Charles Mazarakes	Dana Donahue	Jim Berry	Chris Flournoy
Ken Donahue	Miste Davis	Dan Kirk	Shelly Ogle
Lowe Ann Elliott			

**Others Present:** Executive Director Kiki Bettis; Quitman City Councilwoman Susan Resnik; Media, Zak Wellerman, Wood County Monitor.

- 1. Call To Order/Welcome:** Chairman Gerald Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. followed by the invocation and welcoming of guests, Quitman City Councilwoman Susan Resnik and news reporter from the Wood County Monitor Zak Wellerman.
- 2. Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Robby Fair and seconded by Theresa Margos to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the November 1, 2018 meeting and financial report for the month of November, as presented. Motion carried- unanimously.
- 3. Bylaw Revision-Mission & Vision of Commission:** Chairman Elliott proposed to the board a revision to the WCIC bylaws in regards to the purpose of the Commission recommending such be changed to the 'Mission and Vision' statements into the bylaws to clarify the scope of operations and reflect a sense of direction of the Industrial Commission. A motion was made by Martha Scroggins and seconded by Neal Duncan to approve the proposed amendment to the bylaws under Article II, Section 2.01 as presented. Motion carried-unanimously. The bylaw revision will be submitted to the County Judge and Commissioners Court for final approval.
- 4. Bylaw Revision-Membership:** Chairman Elliott proposed to the directors a revision to the WCIC bylaws regarding membership recommending a reduction in size of the board. Under Article III, Section 3.01 of the bylaws, it currently states that each incorporated city shall have no more than three person nominated by the mayor of that city to serve on the Industrial Commission. The proposed amendment suggests reducing that number to two persons from each incorporated city. Neal Duncan asked if the item could be tabled until the next board meeting in order to give each of the city's time to review the proposal. Sam Scroggins asked if the proposal was the same as presented at the November meeting and Bettis confirmed it was minus the date change. Scroggins stated that the directors had ample time to present and discuss the proposed revision to their respective mayors and city councils. Martha Scroggins said she spoke with Quitman's Mayor and he agreed to leave the decision up to the representatives to make and expressed his support. Chairman Elliott said with a smaller board it would put a greater responsibility on the directors as well as increase efficiency and productivity of the Industrial Commission. Sam Scroggins asked how and who will determine the offset of the representative's terms and Chairman Elliott confirmed that it would continue to be the mayor and city council to make that determination when the director's term has concluded. A motion was made by Sam Scroggins to approve the proposed amendment as presented. The vote was 10-1 with Neal Duncan casting the lone descending vote. Motion carried. The bylaw revision will be submitted to the County Judge and Commissioners Court for final approval.
- 5. Bylaw Revision-Absenteeism:** Chairman Elliott proposed to the board a revision to the WCIC bylaws in regards to absenteeism. The chairman recommended the following revision to Section 3.01 of the bylaws: If the current representative is absent more than three meetings in a fiscal year, unless deemed a personal and/or family emergency, the position shall be considered

vacated. The current bylaws state that representatives cannot miss three or more consecutive meetings. Sam Scroggins raised the concern of the board chairman making appointments to the board if and when a representative is vacated from the board due to absenteeism. Chairman Elliott assured the representatives that the chairman only makes a recommendation of such when a city has failed to fill the vacancy. Bettis stated that (during her tenure) the chairman has not had to make a recommendation as the mayor's have always appointed a representative to the board. A motion was made by Joanne Wisdom and seconded by Ben Hudman to approve the proposed amendment as presented. The vote was 9 in favor of the amendment with Sam Scroggins and Neal Duncan casting the two descending votes. Motion carried. The bylaw revision will be submitted to the County Judge and Commissioners Court for final approval.

6. **Accept Directors Commitment & Principles Forms:** The directors were presented with the Commitment and Principles form as it reflected the new time of the Industrial Commission's board meetings. A motion was made by Joanne Wisdom and seconded by Ben Hudman to accept the revised Commitment and Principles forms as presented. Motion carried-unanimously.
7. **Standard Location of Meeting:** Chairman Elliott suggested moving the board's monthly meetings to a standard location as it is becoming difficult to find locations throughout the county that can accommodate. Sam Scroggins said the First United Methodist Church in Quitman has a classroom available that the board could use for the remaining of the fiscal year as JOY Hall is under renovations at this time. A motion was made by Neal Duncan and seconded by Joanne Wisdom for the board to meet in the classroom at the First United Methodist Church in Quitman. Motion carried-unanimously.
8. **ETCOG-Biannual Reception Sponsorship:** The 5<sup>th</sup> biannual East Texas Reception hosted by the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is scheduled for March 6, 2019 at the Fairmont Austin Hotel. The Industrial Commission was asked to consider becoming a sponsor of the event. Bettis presented the board with the various sponsorship options which costs ranged from \$200 up to \$5,000. Bettis also stated that typically she is the only person from the Industrial Commission to attend the event in years past and welcomed the board members to attend. Individual tickets without a sponsorship are \$75 each. A motion was made by Joanne Wisdom and seconded by JR Simpson to pass on sponsoring the ETCOG event. Motion carried-unanimously.
9. **All Outdoors TV- Honey Hole Sponsorship:** The Industrial Commission received a proposal from Mark Jones of the Honey Hole All Outdoors TV Show seeking a commercial sponsorship to run in all 26 episodes as a segment on Lake Fork will be featured in the Spring of 2019. Chairman Elliott asked that the item be tabled until the January meeting in hopes of finding another entity to partner with on this proposal.
10. **Chairman's Report:** Chairman Elliott informed the board that he has been looking into various board training options as well as Comprehensive and Strategic Planning programs. The chairman asked the directors if they would consider attending a board training session and discussed possible options for such. The board members tentatively agreed and asked that the chairman bring a proposal to the January meeting for review and possible approval.
11. **Executive Director's Report:** Bettis reported that the second draft of the contract between BassMaster and Wood County has been submitted to the County Attorney and Auditor for review. There were only a few minor changes submitted, on behalf of the county attorney, and those requests have been completed. Once the contract has been agreed upon by the attorney and the auditor, the contract will be submitted to the Commissioners Court for official approval. Bettis met with Larry McManus, Senior Director for Rural Economic Development with Texas Department of Agriculture, to discuss grants and programs available at the state level. Texas is divided into 11 regions, with McManus overseeing them all, however Wood County does have its own regional representative- Darrell Dean. We discussed the Community Development Fund aka (CDBG) Community Development Block Grant (which most of your cities utilize for public facilities such as water/wastewater infrastructure, street/drainage improvements, etc.) however there are numerous other activities for which these funds may be used, especially on a county level including decent housing and suitable living environments, as well expanding economic

opportunities for persons of low-to-moderate income. Also part of the CDBG Program there are funds for Planning and Capacity Building- for public facility and housing planning as well as comprehensive plans or any of its components. Under the Texas Capital Fund, which supports rural business development, retention and expansion, there are programs to assist with funding including: Infrastructure/Real Estate Development Program that provides grants or zero-interest loans for infrastructure and building improvements to create or retain permanent jobs; Main Street/Downtown Revitalization Program provides grant funds for public infrastructure to eliminate deteriorated conditions and foster economic development in historic main street areas and rural downtown areas. Additional loan funds are available for downtown small businesses; (coming the Summer 2019) The FAST Program (Fire, Ambulance, and Service Truck) will provide funds for eligible vehicles to provide emergency response and special services to rural communities. The Texas State Office of Rural Health also provides services, programs and grants for rural health from incentives to capital and hospital improvements. Bettis also noted that the sales tax revenue for the November ending month, (which includes the months of August, September and October) was up county-wide. According to the Comptroller's Report, the sectors most dependent on consumer spending (retail trade and restaurants) held strong and reported positive revenues in November.

12. **Community Reports:**

*Alba-* The Antique Car Show and Parade was held last weekend in downtown with 103 entries. The Fire Department will host their annual Fish Fry on December 8 at the Alba Library

*Hawkins-* The Education Foundation is underway and accepting donations.

*Mineola-* The final production of Doublewide Texas Christmas will be held this weekend at the Lake Country Playhouse. The showing of the 'Grinch' will take place next weekend at the Select Theater. The Boy Scout Pack 385 will host pancakes with Santa on December 15 from 9-10 a.m. A new lightning business, 'Watts' has officially opened in downtown Mineola. Wing Dingers building undergoing construction and the Beckham Hotel is under new ownership. The Iron Horse Square Railroad inaugural run and ribbon cutting will be held December 12, 2018. The Mineola Landmark Commission and City of Mineola will unveil the new 36-seater train. Also, the Mineola Chamber building has been renovated with a fresh coat of paint and a new awning.

*Quitman-* The Christmas parade was cancelled due to the potential of inclement weather. 'The Shops' will host a soft opening within the coming weeks. The First United Methodist Church Choir performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City and will perform a cantata next Sunday at the Church. The Quitman Chamber of Commerce has a new location as they moved their offices upstairs in former chamber building located on the square and a new candle shop will open below, formerly known as Reflections Hospice. The Folds of Honor-Patriot Sporting Challenge will host their annual event in October 2019 followed by a Gala event to be held in April of 2020. All proceeds from the event benefit the Folds of Honor foundation.

*Winnsboro-* The annual Christmas parade was cancelled due to the potential of inclement weather.

*Yantis-* The annual Christmas parade was cancelled and One Holy Night celebration is scheduled for this weekend to be held in the Yantis Café.

13. **Next Meeting Schedule:** A motion was made by Ben Hudman and seconded by Neal Duncan to re-schedule the date of the January meeting due to the upcoming holidays. Motion carried-unanimously. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 10, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church Classroom in Quitman.

14. **Meeting adjourned:** A motion was made by Joanne Wisdom and seconded by Theresa Margos to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried-unanimously. Meeting at 7:59 p.m.

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Kiki Bettis, Executive Director