

**Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 6, 2016**

**Weatherford City Hall – 522 W. Rainey Ave – Weatherford, OK 73096**

- **Call to Order** – Chairman Mike Hixson called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.
- **Notice** - Notice of the meeting was posted at the Weatherford City Hall and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk at 2:45 P.M., April 6, 2016
- **Attendance** - Please see attached sign-in sheet for attendance.
- **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the meeting of 3.09.1016 where unanimously approved.
- **Presentation of Treasurer's Report** - The WEDF financial information was provided to members by Wes Magill, Treasurer
- **WAEDF Economic development update** - Chuck Dougherty reported on the following:
  1. Exit 82 Phase II – Progress continues. It was determined the City must purchase a small parcel of land associated with the project. The start date is still planned for late 2016.
  2. Tobacco Settlement Grant – Funds from this grant were used to build an outdoor workout area at the Sand Plum Trail and construction was recently completed.
  3. Armory – Food Resource Center remodel of the interior continues hiring of key people has started.
  4. Prairie West Club House – Crews finished construction in early April and the building is ready for final inspection.
  5. Old Ford Dealership Property – Demolition of the building will begin April 12. Bids were due March 30, 2016. The winning demo bid is \$88,443. Concrete will be removed but sink hole will remain open temporarily for further study and analysis.
  6. Sales tax results: Up 4.17% for the month compared to a year ago, but YTD \$ is below projected levels. City is carefully managing spending.
  7. AEP – Announced plans for new Service Center to be constructed in the Technology Park. Survey has been completed.
  8. Chuck conducted a short survey of the Top 10 Selection Factors for site selection. Availability of skilled labor is now listed as the #1 factor, followed by highway accessibility and quality of life to make up the top three.

- **Special Presentation – Brad Bryant – Chair SWOSU Dept. of Engineering and Technology**

The mission of the Engineering Technology Department is “To prepare for professional opportunities in Industry”. Brad presented on the efforts of the Department to provide broad based programs, to maintain facilities and provide curriculum needed for today and future industry, and prepare an adequate and knowledgeable workforce. The Technology Department at SWOSU has been accredited by ABET and ATMAE. The growth and success of the Department is noted with 98 students enrolled in 2006 compared to 202 in 2015. Graduates have experienced a 90% placement rate. Grants have helped with software, equipment, and scholarships. Robotics competition has become a major focus in the Department and SWOSU has competed with teams from around the world.

- **Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

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Gary Mol - Secretary

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Chuck Dougherty - WAED Director