

Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 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 9:15 P.M., May 6, 2016
- **Attendance** - Please see attached sign-in sheet for attendance.
- **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the meeting of 4.06.2016 where unanimously approved.
- **Presentation of Treasurer's Report** - The WAEDF financial information was provided to members by Wes Magill, Treasurer. Funds in reserve total \$107,470.49 as of 04.30.2016.
- **WAEDF Economic development update** - Chuck Dougherty reported on the following:
 1. Exit 82 Phase II – Progress continues. The start date is still planned for late 2016. A recent meeting with ODOT confirmed that funding is available for the project.
 2. Food Resource Center- Remodel of the interior nearing completion with move in possible in 2 weeks. Plans are to open by late summer 2016.
 3. Prairie West Club House – Crews have finished construction. Community can use the large room in the clubhouse for events. Seating capacity is approximately 150. June 5th is the date planned for an open house.
 4. Old Ford Dealership Property – Demolition of the building is complete. Old fuel tanks were located and removed. The City has several options under consideration going forward.
 5. Brownfields Workshop – Chuck plans to attend an upcoming workshop and conference on environmental cleanup and brownfields redevelopment.
 6. Western OK Law Enforcement Summit – will be held July 19-21 in Weatherford if funding support is approved by Hotel Motel tax committee.
 7. Sales tax results: Down 9.4% for the month compared to a year ago, 8.29% for the year. A reduction of 5% was projected. City is carefully managing all spending.
 8. New residential permits are down for 2016, however some business permits are being requested as the year progresses.
 9. AEP – Recently announced plans for new Service Center to be constructed in the Technology Park. Survey has been completed. \$2.5 million is the estimated expenditure for the new construction.
 10. OK National Guard Readiness Center - Thirty acres are reserved for this purpose in the Industrial Park. Weatherford hopes to be “next on the list” when the funding for the next site is approved by the National Guard.
- **Special Presentation – Max Ary – Director of the Stafford Air and Space Museum**

Max presented on the importance of Travel and Tourism in Oklahoma, an \$8.9 billion dollar benefit to the State according to 2014 statistics. Travel and Tourism is the 3rd largest industry that employs 96,000 people in OK. Oklahoma is the 7th most traveled State in the USA, but 34th in travel related income. 18000 people visit the Stafford Air and Space Museum annually. It has been rated 5 Star on Trip Advisor for the past 3 years. 10 million vehicles pass Weatherford annually on I-40. The Museum continues to focus on growth and expansion of artifacts that encourage interest in visiting the Museum and Weatherford. The best outcome is to get them to come, spend the night in Weatherford Hotels, to dine at our restaurants, and to come again!
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Mol - Secretary

Chuck Dougherty - WAED Director