

Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 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 8:45 A.M., June 1, 2016
- **Attendance** - Please see attached sign-in sheet for attendance.
- **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the meeting of 5.11.2016 where unanimously approved.
- **Presentation of Treasurer's Report** - The WAEDF financial information was provided to members by Wes Magill, Treasurer. Funds in reserve total \$107,252.29 as of 05.31.2016.
- **WAEDF Economic development update** - Chuck Dougherty reported on the following:
 1. Exit 82 Phase II –Meeting with ODOT scheduled for June will provide final plan. It has been confirmed that funding is available for the project but start may be delayed until end of 2016.
 2. Food Resource Center- Plans to open by late July 2016 may be delayed.
 3. Prairie West Club House – June 5th is the date planned for an open house, with fund raising event late summer.
 4. Old Ford Dealership Property – Demolition of the building is complete, dirt work complete, grass planting scheduled. Will seek assistance to develop concepts and plans for the next phase of drainage fixes.
 5. Western OK Law Enforcement Summit – to be held July 18-21 in Weatherford is projected to be have an economic benefit of \$120,000 to Weatherford during the three day period. Safe Schools Presentation on 6.21.16 is open to the public.
 6. Sales tax results: Down 7% for the month compared to a year ago, 8% for the year. City is carefully managing all spending.
 7. New Construction - A new Senior Living Housing facility will be built on the east side of Weatherford. Eight residential, and 5 commercial permits have been issued.
 8. AEP –Awaiting building plans for recently announced new Service Center to be constructed in the Technology Park. \$2.5 million is the estimated expenditure for the new construction.
- **Special Presentation – Harold Wright – Oklahoma House of Representatives, District 57**

Representative Wright presented on key issues from the 2016 Legislative Session:
Budget: The \$6.678 billion dollar budget was passed without a Special Session using approximately \$150 million from the Rainy Day Fund. The \$1.3 billion dollar shortfall caused an average cut of 5%, but the Common Ed budget was kept whole, as well as Corrections Department. Higher ED was down 7%. This was a difficult outcome following the 10% deduction in 2015.
State Questions:
777 – Right to Farm. It is supported by the Ag Community and Farm Bureau. It will keep special interest groups from impacting Agriculture in our State.
792 – Liquor Modernization. The bill allows grocery stores and convenience stores to sell full-strength beer and wine.
779 - Sales Tax Increase. Increase the State Sales Tax by one percent to generate revenue for education fund. The bill raises concerns as Oklahoma sales tax rates are already 9-10% and many have a negative impact on cities and towns.

Representative Wright has been working with ODOT to open a street along the railroad track east to the Hartland Museum. It has been approved as a one way road, but should be a good change.
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Mol - Secretary

Chuck Dougherty - WAED Director