

Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 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 3:15 P.M., June 30, 2016
- **Attendance** - Please see attached sign-in sheet for attendance. Special guests were recognized.
- **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the meeting of 06.08.2016 were unanimously approved.
- **Presentation of Treasurer's Report** - The WAEDF financial information was provided to members by Wes Magill, Treasurer. Funds in reserve total \$107,722.31 as of 06.30.2016.
- **WAEDF Economic development update** - Chuck Dougherty reported on the following:
 1. Exit 82 Phase II – Progress continues to move forward. City purchased a small parcel of land necessary to enable the project. Expect a Q1 2017 start. All is in place with the City and ODOT. A “Phase III” is being planned that will allow access to the Heartland Museum directly from east main.
 2. Food Resource Center- Plans to open by late July 2016 are delayed. Now late August.
 3. Prairie West Club House – June 5th open house was well attended. Fund raising event is planned for late summer.
 4. Old Ford Dealership Property – Engineering assistance has been sought to develop concepts and plans for the next phase and drainage fixes.
 5. Western OK Law Enforcement Summit – to held July 18-21 in Weatherford is projected to 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. Pioneer Cellular – Plans to build a new store at Main and State with ground breaking expected in early August.
 7. Sales tax results: Down 7% for the month compared to a year ago, 8% for the year. City is carefully managing all spending.
 8. New Construction – Corn Heritage Village will add a 36 room addition.
 9. AEP – Ground breaking for the 10,000 sq. ft. new construction is set for 11:30 July 13th.
 10. Sales Tax Results – Down 11.2% for May compared to last year, 8.5% for the year.
- **Special Presentation – Randy Beutler, 17th President SWOSU**
 - Appropriations:** The 16% cut in State funding in 2016 will require efficiencies and focus going forward. SWOSU tuition costs at SWOSU remains “affordable” and competitive with compared to other RUSO locations.
 - Quality Education:** SWOSU understands the “quality education standards at SWOSU” have been and will be even more essential for future success.
 - Enrollment Growth:** A key focus at SWOSU is recruitment and retention of Students. Summer 2016 was up 12.5%, Fall session is estimated to be up 5-6%.
 - Difficult Times:** SWOSU is fortunate to have the generous financial support from the private sector and the Foundation.
 - Student Debt:** 54% of graduating SWOSU students has no student loan debt.
 - Projects:** Focus now is on the renovation of student dorms.
- **Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m. Next month Special Guest Speaker is Senator Mike Schultz.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Mol - Secretary

Chuck Dougherty - WAED Director