

**Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Aug 10, 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 8:05 A.M., August 8, 2016
- **Attendance** - Please see attached sign-in sheet for attendance. Special guests were recognized.
- **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the meeting of 07.13.2016 where unanimously approved.
- **Presentation of Treasurer's Report** - The WAEDF financial information was provided to members by Wes Magill, Treasurer. Funds in reserve total \$109,302.29 as of 07.31.2016.
- **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.
  2. Exit 82 Phase III – A tentative resolution to proceed was approved by City Council
  3. Food Resource Center – August 30 @ 3:00 P.M. is the planned date for ribbon cutting and dedication.
  4. Prairie West Club House – Recent fund raising event is was a success and raised approximately \$11000 .
  5. Old Ford Dealership Property – Engineering assistance has been sought to develop concepts and plans for the next phase and drainage fixes. Plan to have some feedback during August.
  6. AEP – Ground breaking on July 13<sup>th</sup> for the 10,000 sq. ft. new construction was well attended.
  7. New Construction: Many new things are in process in Weatherford including a new Pioneer Cellular retail office, LaQuinta Hotel, burger restaurant, Edward Jones Office, Senior Living apartments, and more.
  8. Sales Tax Results – Down 7.4% for June compared to last year, 8.2% for the year.
  9. **Mayor Brown**- Will be among six officials representing a wide range of experiences that will be inducted Sept. 15 into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials. The ceremony will be at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City in conjunction with the Annual Conference Banquet for the Oklahoma Municipal League. They will become the 50th – 55th inductees into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 2001.
- **Special Presentation – Oklahoma Senator and next Senate Pro Tempore, Mike Schulz**
  - 2016 ... a difficult session:** The Senator shared the difficult decisions that were required during last session with the \$1.2 billion shortfall.
  - \$140 million excess:** The Governor requested a Special Session to review options, without it the funds will be apportioned back to the agencies it was taken from.
  - ODOT Commitment:** The commitment continues to fund roads and bridges in Oklahoma.
  - 2017 Session:** Expect another difficult year of funding deficiencies.
  - New Members:** With upcoming elections it is possible to have 13 or more on the Senate, and 30 new in the House. This will require a tremendous training and learning curve.
  - State Questions:** Expect to see several on the ballot in November. Three have the most focus:
    - State Question 777 – Right to Farm. It is supported by the Farm Bureau and will keep special interest groups from impacting Agriculture.*
    - State Question 792 – Liquor Modernization. Allows grocery stores and convenience stores to sell full-strength beer and wine, even on Sundays.*
    - State Question 779- Sales Tax Increase. Designed to increase the state sales tax by one percent to generate revenue for education fund. Sales tax rates are already 9-10% and many have a negative impact on cities and towns.*
- **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