

WOOD COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

January 5, 2017

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Dubya's BBQ

Hawkins, Texas

The Wood County Industrial Commission met January 5, 2017 at 7 p.m., at Dubya's BBQ Restaurant in Hawkins, Texas.

Members Present:

Sue Hitzemann	Dan Kirk	Robby Fair	Richard Pearce
Gary Edwards	Ben Hudman	Sam Scroggins	Martha Scroggins
Neal Duncan	Miste Davis	Ken Donahue	Lowe Ann Elliott
Gerald Elliott	JR Simpson		

Members Not Present:

Marcella Smith	Allene Doggett	Brad Floyd	Jason LaRue
Janna Castloo			

Others Present: Executive Director Kiki Bettis; County Hotel Lodging Representative Dana Donahue; Guests: Kelly Kisinger Kieke, owner of the Speak Easy Coffee Company-Quitman; and Denea Hudman, Executive Director of the Quitman Development Corporation.

- 1. Call To Order/Welcome:** Chairwoman Sue Hitzemann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chairwoman Hitzemann welcomed guests Kelly Kieke and Denea Hudman and thanked them for attending the meeting. The invocation was led by Gerald Elliott.
- 2. Consent Agenda:** Sam Scroggins requested an amendment be made to the minutes correcting the timeframe in which the economic development logo will be presented to the board. The minutes should note that the item will be brought to the board for review during the meeting with North Star. A motion was made by JR Simpson to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held November 3, 2016 including the amendment, and it was seconded by Neal Duncan. Motion carried- unanimously. A motion was made by Neal Duncan and seconded by Ken Donahue to accept the financials for the month ending December 31, 2016 as presented. Motion carried-unanimously.
- 3. Travel Expenses for North Star to make presentation to WCIC:** Chairwoman Hitzemann asked the agenda item be tabled until next month's meeting. She is waiting to hear back from Ed with North Star Destination on scheduling dates to come to Wood County to give an updated presentation on the branding study as well as seek assistance with the development of an economic development logo.
- 4. Request for UCC Funding by Quitman EDC & 'The Speak Easy' Café:** Denea Hudman, Executive Director of the Quitman Development Corporation, thanked the board for the grant that was awarded to the City during the previous fiscal year. Hudman updated the board on the status of the City's downtown project and explained how the grant monies were utilized to complete the asbestos abatement on the strip of buildings located on the north side of the square. The buildings have been cleared out and are ready for new development. Hudman also noted that city officials are in communications with interested investors and hopes to begin the revitalization project very soon. Hudman introduced Kelly Kieke, owner of the Speak Easy Coffee Company in Quitman, who informed the board of her new business venture. Kieke spoke of her background in managerial works and service to various industries and expressed her desire to open the coffee shop especially in a building rich in history. The 5,000 sq.ft. establishment also includes an upstairs which features four rooms, a small bathroom (previously known as a small hotel site) which she plans to open for meetings. Construction has commenced on the building and the City is working with the Kieke's on the supply of water to the facility however she has had to install the plumbing system. Kieke said she was informed that there were funds available [through the WCIC] as there was a recipient not eligible to receive funds and presented the board with a UCC grant application seeking funds for the purchase of a new espresso machine. The total cost to purchase the espresso machine was listed at \$5,777. Chairman Hitzemann noted that there were some funds available through the grant program however reminded the board that all UCC applications must go through the committee for review and suggested the committee meet to discuss the coffee company's application along with the other applicants that were submitted last fiscal year. The Committee agreed to meet on Thursday, January 12 to review and discuss the applications and will bring forth a recommendation for the board to approve at the February meeting.
- 5. Aerial Mapping with Beacon Aviation:** Marty Gould, owner of Beacon Aviation, had approached the WCIC on a digital aerial mapping project that would target and map everything in the County. The proposed cost of the project was listed at 18.5 cents/acre @ 696 square miles totaling \$82,373.93. After

researching and speaking with local officials, the Wood County Appraisal District, and EPA- the State currently provides this information to Texas counties and appraisal districts and the information is made available to the Industrial Commission at no cost. The board agreed to pass on the aerial mapping proposal.

6. **Executive Directors Report:** The Texas Downtown Association Conference was held in Killeen and it was a HUGE success! Wood County was recognized in numerous ways—first, Wood County was announced as the “Best Represented County” as we had 5 cities represented along with myself as the County’s representative. Second, Wood County was noted as bringing 3 new members to the Association in 2016. Also, the City of Winnsboro received the People’s Choice award along with the Bowery receiving best Partnership & Venue. Lonestar Republic Steakhouse as nominated for newly renovated downtown area business. Bettis mentioned the changes at the courthouse and WCIC office. The office has been re-arranged and updated with a (partly) new desk and filing cabinet and new wiring. Next on the agenda will be to re-wire/upgrade internet service with Peoples Telephone and get a new router. At the courthouse, there is only 1 entrance and exit out of the building and there is now a metal detector at that door as well. Visitors must enter from the West Side (back of the courthouse- side nearest to telephone company. All visitors to the courthouse will be required to walk through the detector. Bettis noted the system appears to be working well however some still not aware of the changes, adding it will take the public some time getting use to but all in all it’s for the best and safety of everyone. Lastly, Bettis announced Wood County is going MOBILE! The company, “Bumblebee Apps” offered ALL TDA members a special discount rate with no set up fee and we are in the works of putting the App together. With this App it will be an easier and effective way to market Wood County. Bettis mentioned that most people use their phones to surf the web to find things to do, places to go, book rooms, etc and with the App we are putting that info in the palm of people’s hands. It will be linked to WCIC website as well and hope to launch it at the end of the month. On another note, Bettis notified the board that she will be out of the office on Wednesday, January 18 attending the monthly Northeast Texas Economic Development Regional Roundtable which will be held the Cascades in Tyler.
7. **Chairwoman’s Report:** Chairwoman Hitzemann is working on developing signage for the County and is starting with the city’s downtown areas. She is currently communicating with city officials to work together in purchasing new banners to include ‘Welcome to Wood County.’”
8. **Committee Reports:** Neal Duncan gave an update on the Airport Board and made note of the new AWOS at the Airport. The RAMP project is underway and the fuel system has been renovated and maintenance will soon be done on the runway.
9. **Community Reports:**
 - Alba-* The Christmas Festival was a huge success and everyone was pleased with the outcome of the event. Up next for the city is their annual Country Festival in the Spring with hopes of a target date of April. At the end of January, the annual Eagle Fest will be held in Emory and everyone was encouraged to attend the event.
 - Hawkins-* Erin Wright and her husband have opened a new business in Hawkins called the Red Roof Ice House. The venue will be hosting an array of music concerts and has already sold out for their first concert series which is set to open within the next couple of weeks. It is located on Highway 14 next door to Brookshire’s Grocery.
 - Holly Lake Ranch-* There is new signage that has been constructed at the Ranch. The new concrete/stone “Holly Lake Golf Club” sign has been placed at the golf course.
 - Mineola-* The Yellowjackets are State Champs! Congratulations to all the kids and coaches for all of their hard work and a great season. At the Select Theater, the movie “Passengers” is playing this weekend followed by the animated movie “Sing” on January 13. The ‘Wine Train’ will be held April 1st and tickets are now being sold to the event. Also, new businesses Busch’s Chicken and Hibbett Sports are coming along and hope to open its doors soon.
 - Quitman-* The Quitman Development Corporation has signed a letter of intent with developers and investors for the re-development of the downtown area. The ‘Speak Easy Coffee Company’ is hoping to open by the end of February. Also a new residential housing development will be breaking ground soon. Sissy Spacek has a new book out and she references Quitman for helping her become the woman she is today along with her success and memories. Spacek will be on tour this summer promoting her book and plans to stop in Quitman sometime during her tour.
 - Winnsboro-* The new ‘Rooster Café’ has officially opened. Tractor Supply will open a new location in Winnsboro. It will be located in the former Alco Building. Applications are currently being accepted and the doors are schedule to open within the next month. The new Madison Oaks apartments are open and taking applications for residents. Autumn Wind Assisted Living Center is looking to open an extra residential space for more independent residents. The Cooperleaf Spa is expanding their business and has begun renovations on their new building located next door to the Spa in the downtown area. Also, the Chamber of Commerce will host its annual banquet in January.

Yantis- The annual Christmas Parade and Lighting was a success. The City bought a new backhoe.

10. **Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 2, 2017. Location of the meeting will be determined at a later time.

11. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:11 p.m.



Kiki Bettis, Executive Director