

WOOD COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

September 5, 2019
Meeting Minutes
First United Methodist Church
Quitman, Texas

Members Present:

Sam Scroggins	Martha Scroggins	Dana Donahue	Gerald Elliott
Lowe Ann Elliott	Joanne Wisdom	Robby Fair	Dan Kirk
Gwen Winters	Neal Duncan	Pat Hamlett	Miste Davis
JR Simpson	Ben Hudman		

Members Not Present:

Theresa Margos	Jim Berry	Ken Donahue	Chris Flournoy
Cynthia Stancil	Allene Doggett		

Others Present: Executive Director Kiki Bettis; Media, Zak Wellerman with Wood County Monitor.

1. **Call To Order/Open Forum:** Chairman Gerald Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Martha Scroggins and seconded by Dana Donahue to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the August 1, 2019 meeting and financial report for the month of August, as presented. Motion carried- unanimously.
3. **Bylaw Revision- Absenteeism:** Chairman Elliott requested the board revisit the Commission's absenteeism policy within the bylaws. This change was initially approved by the board in December however was tabled in Commissioners Court. The proposed revision to the absenteeism policy states that if a board member is absent more than three meetings in a fiscal year, the position will be considered vacant unless deemed a personal and/or family emergency; whereas the current bylaws states three consecutive missed meetings within a fiscal year. A motion was made by Neal Duncan and seconded by Sam Scroggins to resubmit the change to the absenteeism policy along with the previous bylaw amendments as presented to the Commissioners Court approval. Motion carried- unanimously.
4. **UCC/ED Grant Recommendations:** Members of the UCC/ED Fund Committee met August 16 to review the applications as well as heard presentations on each of the projects. There were a total of 11 applications received with a combined total of \$110,802 in funding requests. The total amount budgeted for such projects were \$50,000. The list of projects and requested amounts to be considered for funding for the current 2018-2019 fiscal year included Doc Cooper Farms \$5,700; Hidden Pines Venue \$5,681; Monkey Trunks \$7,840; Your Appetites \$2,278; Speakeasy Coffee Shop \$7,000; Guys & Dolls Hair Salon \$7,000; Alba EDC/Museum \$5,000; Wood County Retired Teachers Association \$1,500; and the Alba Café \$8,000. Two applications did not receive funding as they did not fully meet the requirements for funding. A motion was made by Joanne Wisdom and seconded by Martha Scroggins. Motion carried- unanimously.
5. **Chamber Golf Tournament Sponsor:** Bettis informed the board that the Quitman Chamber of Commerce was awarded HOT fund monies for their annual Dogwood Fiesta which was set to be held in the Spring however due to inclement weather at the time, the festival did not occur. However the Chamber will be hosting their annual golf tournament at the Links at Lands End and requested the Commission purchase a sponsorship in the amount of \$100 and/or purchase a team to participate in the tournament at a cost of \$300. A motion was made by Joanne Wisdom and seconded by Pat Hamlett to purchase the \$100 sponsorship from the advertising budget. Motion carried- with Neal Duncan abstaining from the vote.
6. **E Tx Reflections Advertising Renewal:** Bettis presented a proposal from East Texas Reflections to renew the Commission's advertising package for another year. A motion was made by Joanne Wisdom and seconded by Lowe Ann Elliott to delay the renewal for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Motion carried- with Neal Duncan abstaining from the vote.

7. **County Line Magazine Advertising Renewal:** Bettis presented two proposals from County Line Magazine to renew their advertising contract. The existing contract, which includes a 1/3 square package and digital advertisements on the website, with an annual cost of \$3,942. The second proposal featured an increase in the size of the square to a half of page along with more digital exposure with an annual cost of \$5,373. The advertisements can be changed each month featuring different events around the county. A motion was made by Ben Hudman and seconded by Joanne Wisdom to approve the contract with the County Line Magazine at the increased ad size and cost of \$5,373. Motion carried unanimously.
8. **KMOO Advertising Renewal:** A motion was made by Sam Scroggins and seconded by Ben Hudman to renew the Commission's advertising package with KMOO at the proposed annual rate of \$1,500. Motion carried- unanimously.
9. **Bassmaster Subscription:** A motion was made by Neal Duncan and seconded by Dana Donahue to purchase a magazine subscription to Bassmaster at the annual rate of \$15. Motion carried- unanimously.
10. **Bassmaster Tournament for 2020:** Bettis announced the Bassmaster Elite Texas Fest has agreed to return to Lake Fork in 2020. The tentative date for the tournament is June 5-9, 2020 and set to be held at the Sabine River Authority headquarters. Bettis asked the board to consider becoming the main host sponsor of the tournament. Bassmaster has requested a \$75,000 sponsorship for next year's event along with some other on site services to be provided however those options are negotiable. Bettis reminded the board that only \$25,000 was allocated in the upcoming budget for the tournament and that other funding could be secured through local chambers of commerce, economic development corporations, businesses, grants and other organizations. A motion was made Sam Scroggins and seconded by Lowe Ann Elliott to enter into discussions with Bassmaster to host next year's Elite Series tournament. Motion carried- unanimously.
11. **Election of Officers for FY 2019-2020:** The Nominations Committee agreed to propose the following recommendations as the slate of officers for the fiscal year 2019-2020. The following nominations were presented to the board for consideration and approval: Allene Doggett-Recording Secretary, Miste Davis- Vice Chairperson, and Dana Donahue- Chairman. A motion was made by Lowe Ann Elliott and seconded by Sam Scroggins to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried-unanimously.
12. **Chairman's Report:** Chairman Elliott thanked board for allowing him the opportunity to serve as the board's chairperson for the past two years. Also he thanked the First United Methodist Church for the allowing the Commission's board meetings to be held at their facility.
13. **Executive Director's Report:** Bettis gave a status update of the bylaw amendments as well as other projects that are ongoing at this time. The Hotel Feasibility agreement has been signed along with a county map detailing the areas of interest to be reviewed during the study and will be on the commissioners court agenda tomorrow (Friday) for approval. The final cost of the study will be \$9,250 and will commence once the documents have been approved and signed accordingly. The study should take 4-6 weeks to conduct. Bettis was invited to attend the Alba EDC meeting to discuss and assist with their downtown assessment. Bettis is working with TIDA officials in preparation for the assessment which is scheduled to be conducted in January/February 2020. Bettis also announced that she is working on action plan/goals for the upcoming fiscal year which will include a SWOT analysis as a basis for developing goals and objectives for the organization. The goal will be to have the board evaluate the current projects and programs, establish and prioritize those goals and objectives and summarize all of the information into a formal action plan as well as compile a summary list of available funding sources on the local, state and federal levels detailing eligible uses for each of the funding opportunities (i.e. public works, parks, downtowns, workforce, housing, etc.) Other news and information around the county including 'Bass Acres' a new subdivision in the Golden area, located off County Road 2950; the Air ONE helicopter will be housed at UT Health Quitman with the airport providing a hangar for UT to house the helicopter in case of inclement weather. The Winnsboro Center of the Arts will be building a new facility, to be located at Elm and

Walnut Streets, and the facility will be used as an education building with multi-purpose performance/exhibition hall which will feature a 250 seat capacity hall, children's discovery area, reception/hospitality area, offices, conference room, classrooms, music recording studio, visual arts workshop and pottery studio. New Mobile Home and RV Park in Yantis located on Johnson Street; the Crappie Haven in Alba is now open 7 days a week from 6 am. To 9 pm. featuring bait & lures, tackle & accessories and groceries. Lastly, Bettis handed out a list of upcoming events in and around the county (see attached document).

14. **Community Reports:**

Alba- Car show benefiting the Food Pantry will be held September 28 in downtown Alba. Sealy Big Bass Splash will be held September 20-22 at Lake Fork Marina.

Hawkins- Homecoming is next Friday with a reunion dinner beginning at 4 p.m. The Hawkins Oil Festival will be held October 12. The annual FFA auction will be held October 12 followed by Donkey Basketball game at the Junior High School gymnasium on October 19.

Jarvis- The annual Jarvis Fest will be held October 25 and November to raise monies for scholarships. On October 26 the college will host a showcase entitled "East Texas Got Talent" featuring Beyonce's father Mr. Knowles.

Mineola- The movie "Over Comer" will be showing at the Select Theater this weekend. The following weekend the Lake Country Playhouse will be setting the stage for the upcoming performance of "The Women of Lockerbee" on September 20-22 and 27-29. The development of a new carwash is underway and will be located across the street from Walmart. New playground equipment has been installed in downtown area near the mini train. The annual Hay Show will be held this weekend at the Civic Center. MLOTA will be hosting line dance lessons on September 20 and the annual Iron Horse Festival will kick off September 27.

Quitman- The city's downtown is seeing continual growth with new stuff coming soon. The Patriot Sporting Legacy Day will be held October 5. Currently the group has 18 children signed up to take part in the fishing, golfing and archery excursion with assistance from the Army Bass Anglers.

Wimmsboro- Wellpalooza will be held September 7 from 8 a.m. to noon featuring fitness, nutrition, live fitness sessions, cooking demonstrations, fun run and the Farmers Market. The annual Autumn Trails celebration will kick off September 27 and run through the entire month of October.

Yantis- The city welcomed a new mobile home park featuring 18 new homes. A new ATV/motorcycle dealership is set to open soon.

15. **Meeting adjourned:** A motion was made by Pat Hamlett and seconded by Ben Hudman to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried-unanimously. Meeting at 806 p.m.

Kiki Bettis, Executive Director