

WOOD COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

February 1, 2018

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Do Drop In Café

Yantis, Texas

The Wood County Industrial Commission met February 1, 2018 at 7 p.m., in Yantis, Texas.

Members Present:

Allene Doggett	Janna Castloo	Theresa Margos	Jim Berry
Richard Pearce	Lowe Ann Elliott	Gerald Elliott	Sam Scroggins
Martha Scroggins	Neal Duncan	Dan Kirk	Robert Fair
Shelly Ogle	Chris Flournoy	JR Simpson	Ben Hudman
Joanne Wisdom			

Members Not Present:

Miste Davis	Ken Donahue	Dana Donahue	Charles Mazarakes
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Others Present: Executive Director Kiki Bettis; Vic Savelli, WCIC Hotel Lodging Representative; Larry Tucker, Editor of the Wood County Monitor.

- 1. Call To Order/Welcome:** Chairman Gerald Elliott called the meeting to order at 7p.m. The invocation was led by Sam Scroggins. Chairman Elliott welcomed and introduced Vic Savelli, as he was recently appointed as the Hotel Lodging Representative for WCIC. Mr. Savelli is the current President of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce and owns The Cottage at Homestead Farms and the Brooks Guest House in Mineola. He also owns a consulting firm in Dallas where he and his wife currently reside.
- 2. Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Janna Castloo and seconded by Lowe Ann Elliott to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held January 4, 2018. Motion carried-unanimously. A motion was made by Richard Pearce and seconded by Martha Scroggins to accept the financial reports for the month of January as presented. Motion carried- unanimously.
- 3. Branding/Marketing Update:** Neal Duncan gave a brief update on the status of the Marketing/Branding Committee. On January 22, the Committee met to discuss the internal and external brand as well as the marketing strategy for the WCIC. The group is working on developing a three year marketing plan for the WCIC that encompasses the mission of promoting economic development and will be bringing a recommendation before the board. The Committee is scheduled to meet again on February 7 to review, revise and update external and internal marketing materials.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** Chairman Elliott suggested to the board the possibility of changing the time of the monthly meetings. He recommended the meeting begin at 6:30 p.m. which would move the dinner time to 5:45 p.m. The general consensus of the board agreed and requested the item be put on the March agenda for approval.
- 5. Executive Directors Report:** Bettis reported a new business opened in the county- Eagle View Enterprises- and the company had submitted a formal letter requesting the opportunity to submit a proposal for website services. Board members inquired about the WCIC's current website host, Duncan Multimedia, and questioned current costs, services, and contract. Duncan stated the WCIC receives the top tier package at a reduced cost. Duncan Multimedia has been providing website services to the WCIC since 2007 without a rate increase. The board agreed to continue utilizing Duncan Multimedia for website services. Bettis also informed the board of some security and accessibility issues with regards to the WCIC office. Someone had been gaining access into the WCIC office for some unknown reason however Bettis reassured the board that the locks had been changed, according to county policy. The IT Department was also notified due to open access of the internet and changes are scheduled to be made to protect the county's server and equipment. Over the past several months Bettis has been working closely with ETCOG and the

Workforce Solutions of East Texas (WSET) on various economic development and workforce projects within the 14-county region. WSET received a total of \$135,000 in performance incentive grants to be used for the upcoming year. Lastly, Bettis updated the board of some key decisions that occurred during the 2017 legislative session. Several bills were defeated that would have significantly eroded the economic development sales tax as well as various state incentive programs including preserving Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code, maintained funding for the Texas Enterprise Fund and continued funding for the Skills Development Fund.

6. **Community Reports:**

Alba- The city welcomed a new business to the area, Eagle View Enterprises. The company provides hosting services, IT consulting services, custom software and web development. Also the high school basketball teams are doing great and are headed to the playoffs.

Golden- The Lake Holbrook Association is hosting a candidate forum at the Harold Simmons Community Center on Saturday beginning at 6 p.m. Everyone was invited and encouraged to attend.

Hawkins- The Hawkins Chamber of Commerce will host their annual banquet on Thursday, February 15 and it will be held in the cafeteria at the high school campus.

Holly Lake Ranch- No activities are planned at this time.

Mineola- "The Post" will be showing at the Select Theater this Friday and Saturday followed by the live production of "Double Wide Texas" at the Lake Country Playhouse February 16 and 23. Two Mineola scouts were honored at the Wood County Boy Scouts reception held at the Nature Preserve. Wayne Collins was recognized by the East Texas Area Council of Governments and Jaxxon Holland received the award for Enhancing Public Safety. Early voting begins Tuesday, February 20 at the Wood County Courthouse as well as at various polling locations throughout the precincts. Election Day is March 6 and voting will take place in each of the precinct locations only. The Mineola Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Members Only Awards Banquet on Friday at Cowburners BBQ. The Chamber is also officially open on Saturdays to help push the chamber as a visitor's center.

Quitman- The Quitman EDC is working on several projects however the details cannot be discussed at this time. The buyout of East Texas Medical Center is still being finalized but it should be completed by the end of the month. Several Quitman FFA students took home awards from the Livestock Show recently. Kathryn Hudman earned a first place ribbon and five others won awards during the calf scramble. Sam Scroggins was recognized as he was recently awarded the Citizen of the Year award at the Quitman Chamber Banquet along with Larry Tucker receiving the Community Spirit award.

Winnsboro- The City Council is holding a special meeting (tonight) to discuss the possible change in policy with regards to social media. The proposed policy would limit the city council and mayor's ability to respond to the citizens on social media sites.

Yantis- The annual Catfish Tournament will be held May 5-6 at the Minnow Bucket. The Department of Public Safety is also looking at hosting a fishing tournament in the near future. The Federal Credit Union will host their 63rd annual meeting next week. A candidate forum will be held Tuesday at the Yantis Community Center beginning at 6 p.m.

7. **Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 1, 2018 in Yantis. The location of the meeting will be determined and announced later this month.
8. **Meeting adjourned:** A motion was made by Theresa Margos and seconded by Neal Duncan to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried-unanimously.

Kiki Bettis, Executive Director