

Waxahachie Community Development Corporation

April 11, 2023

A special meeting of the Waxahachie Community Development Corporation (WCDC) was held in the City Council Conference Room at City Hall, 401 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Daniel Morton, President
Elizabeth Tull, Vice President
David Hill, Mayor
Michael Scott, City Manager
Bob Lynn
David McSpadden
Jim Phillips

Ex-Officio Amber Villarreal, City Secretary
Members Present: Kevin Strength, President/CEO Chamber of Commerce

Ex-Officio
Member Absent: Chad Tustison, Director of Finance

Others Present: Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director of Parks & Leisure Services

1. Call to Order

President Dan Morton called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comments

Patrick Souter, 700 W. Main, Waxahachie, Texas, announced a local veteran's group has requested to place a Chris Kyle statue indoors at the Waxahachie Civic Center near the memorial garden and noted at no cost to the city. He explained the statue was created by the Seminole Nation and entrusted to the Cherokee Nation.

3. Hear presentation from Leighton Autry on a Curated Mural Plan and take any necessary action

David McSpadden explained he contacted artist Leighton Autry to discuss murals in Waxahachie. Mr. McSpadden noted Mr. Autry agreed to curate a mural plan at no cost to the city.

Mr. Leighton Autry explained he has been a full-time artist approaching 11 years. He explained murals provide an opportunity for local, national, and international artists to showcase their talent. Murals provide free public art and allow public engagement. Mr. Autry presented examples of murals and potential locations downtown.

The Board expressed their support for incorporating murals throughout Waxahachie and discussed estimated costs, partnerships with property owners, and an implementation plan. It was the general consensus of the Board to designate Mr. McSpadden to lead a committee to identify potential mural locations, proposed cost, funding options, and develop a plan for implementation.

4. Discuss baseball/softball backstops and basketball courts at schools and parks

President Morton explained the need for additional practice fields for baseball, softball, and neighborhood basketball courts. He provided a list of local schools with opportunities to add backstops.

It was the general consensus of the Board to review adding baseball/softball backstops and basketball courts. The Board discussed improving city owned parks, partnership funding opportunities with local organizations and the school district to meet the needs of citizens.

5. Hear update on Boat Dock Park improvements and consider funding of supplemental appropriation

Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director of Parks & Leisure Services, explained bids were received on March 28, 2023 and the lowest bid was approximately \$1.8 million over budget to provide the basic improvements. He explained staff will work with the consultant to revise the scope of work and rebid. Mr. Martinez explained the Board may be presented with an opportunity to assist with funding.

6. Discuss the policy and procedure for requesting funds from WCDC for Economic Development projects

Mr. Jim Phillips explained he wants to ensure the Board agrees on what economic development projects qualify for potential WCDC funding. He explained he supports funding infrastructure that benefits more than just the private developer and noted the importance of ensuring there is a retail or sales tax component to a project that is requesting WCDC funding and requested to see a financial impact study with future requests.

Mr. McSpadden noted the Board should not exclude economic development opportunities that provide jobs.

Mayor David Hill explained Chapter 380 agreements provide an incentive to new and expanding businesses that will create new jobs while stimulating business and commercial activity in Waxahachie within a certain time frame. The projects are assessed by the Economic Development Department prior to requesting funding from WCDC.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary