

Waxahachie Community Development Corporation  
January 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the Waxahachie Community Development Corporation was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 401 South Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

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

Ex-Officio Lori Cartwright, City Secretary  
Members Present: Sandy King, President/CEO Chamber of Commerce

Ex-Officio Charles Harris, Director of Finance  
Member Absent:

Others Present: Laurie Mosley, Director of Convention & Visitors Bureau  
April Ortiz, Civic Center Director  
James Villarreal, Assistant Parks Director  
Chris Seale, Horticulturist

**1. Call to Order**

President Dan Morton called the meeting to order.

**2. Public Comments**

None

**3. Approval of minutes of the Waxahachie Community Development Corporation meetings of October 15, 2019 and November 1, 2019**

**Action:**

*Mayor David Hill moved to approve minutes of the WCDC meetings of October 15, 2019 and November 1, 2019. Mr. Dave McSpadden seconded, All Ayes.*

**4. Hear update of activities from Convention & Visitors Bureau Director and update on the Railyard Park**

Ms. Laurie Mosley, Director of Convention & Visitors Bureau, recapped festival and events for 2019 noting the Fourth Quarter had many combined activities including a long list of Christmas activities. Overall hotel revenues were up an average of 11.2% and occupancy 5.7%. She reported 2020 through April is booked with events including:

- The Third Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Parade
- Broadway Musical at the Waxahachie High School Performing Arts Center
- Brown Bag & History at Ellis County Museum

- Downtown Waxahachie Mardi Gras Parade and Celebration
- Tulip Festival
- Ellis County Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Crossroads of Texas Film and Music Festival

Ms. Mosley stated the Tulip Festival would operate late February to mid-April at Poston Gardens with activities planned every weekend that will include car shows. She reported the *Texas Co-Op Power Magazine* “Gordon’s Gold” article featured the Ellis County Courthouse. Chet “The Daytripper” Garner filmed an episode in Waxahachie featuring Matt Pittman/Meat Church, the Ellis County Courthouse, Ellis County Museum, the Munster Mansion and 878 Airsoft. Ms. Mosley stated the episode would air in the spring of 2020. She reported the radio ad with IHeart Radio/Star 102.1 resulted in some great added value with morning show host/WHIS alumni Jeremy Robinson playing Mother Ginger in “The Nutcracker” production. She reported upcoming group tours include Premier Tours Global – Spring Bluebonnet Tour and Baptist Missionary Association of America Convention.

Ms. Mosley presented the Railyard Park update noting the first event will be a Mardi Gras concert on February 22 following WDMA’s parade and Beer and Beads Stroll. Spring will kick-off with the official Grand Opening concert on March 21, 2020. She stated Ms. Kelly Skistimas is working on many activities and events at the Railyard Park that will include local music nights, the Cinco De Mayo Festival, School’s Out for Summer Bash, BBQ Festival, Coffee Festival, Summer Night Concert Series, and more.

President Morton asked the status of the construction of the Railyard. Mr. Albert Lawrence, Assistant City Manager, stated some issues had to be re-designed and therefore the new projected completion date is the end of January.

## **5. Hear update of activities at the Civic Center**

Ms. April Ortiz, Civic Center Director, reported October closed with 58 events and November closed with 62 events. December closed with 38 events and January currently has 50 events booked. She reported some bookings in December are already booked for 2020.

Up and Coming events include: Last Call Boutique Sale, Daddy Daughter Dance, and 15th Annual Jazz Cafe

Ms. Ortiz stated the facility’s exterior coating will be cleaned in the spring, a Hachie Heart was installed in November, and new Christmas lights were on display during the holidays.

## **6. Hear update of Community Beautification**

Mr. Chris Seale, Horticulturist, introduced his new employee Mr. Mohammadreza Yavarikhah (Reza) who previously worked eight (8) years at the Dallas Arboretum. His duties will include landscape and planter maintenance, fertilizing and assisting Mr. Seale.

Mr. Seale reviewed completed projects noting winter change outs at all 80 planters and all 14 locations including but not limited to Civic Center, Rogers Street, Sports Complex and the planters on Highway 77 median. He stated over 18,000 tulips were planted this year at Poston Gardens and he will be adding some to planters.

Mr. Seale stated in addition to the Christmas Light display, the Civic Center added a new Santa's Toy Company display. He stated there is new landscaping at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and City Hall on the northeast side received landscape improvements as well as the courtyard receiving lush native plantings. Current projects include the Hachie Heart planters, Oaklawn Park, Spring Park landscaping, and Lion's Park Soccer Field.

## **7. Hear update of activities at the Sports Complex**

Mr. James Villarreal, Assistant Parks Director, noted there is approximately thirty-seven (37) weekends of reported tournaments for 2020 and reviewed the process it takes to book the weekends with organizations. He stated from the second weekend of December to the second weekend of February there are not a lot of activities at the sports complex. Mr. Villarreal reviewed projects noting the playground has been installed and is ready for play. Parking Lot Phase III design is in progress with bidding scheduled for March and construction beginning on May 4, 2020. Winter maintenance continues throughout the Sports Complex. An irrigation audit is scheduled for January and the entire irrigation system will be checked and maintenance. He stated there is 85 acres of irrigation.

## **8. Adjourn**

President Morton thanked staff for their reports and stated he is excited to see the direction we are going. He stated he is proud of City Staff for making Waxahachie a better place to live and play.

*There being no further business, Mr. Dave McSpadden moved the meeting adjourn at 3:50 p.m. Mayor David Hill seconded, All Ayes.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cartwright  
City Secretary