

Waxahachie Community Development Corporation
June 11, 2024

A special meeting of the Waxahachie Community Development Corporation (WCDC) was held in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Daniel Morton, President
Elizabeth Tull, Vice President
Billie Wallace, Mayor
Michael Scott, City Manager
David McSpadden
Jim Phillips

Member Absent: Bob Lynn

Ex-Officio Amber Villarreal, City Secretary
Members Present: Chad Tustison, Senior Director of Finance

Ex-Officio Kevin Strength, President/CEO Chamber of Commerce
Member Absent:

Others Present: Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Laurie Mosley, Director of Convention & Visitors Bureau
April Ortiz, Civic Center Director
Chris Seale, Horticulturist
James Villarreal, Assistant Director Sports Complex

1. Call to Order

President Dan Morton called the meeting to order. Mr. Morton recognized the positive feedback on the Sports Complex and Boat Dock Park.

2. Public Comments

Chris Wright, 808 W. Marvin, Waxahachie, Texas, recognized the new murals and requested the “W” be corrected and the Scarborough Fair Knight added to the mural on the Parks Building, as it was presented and approved by City Council.

3. Consider authorizing the use of Convention Visitors Bureau FY24 Contingency Funds for DFW Youth World Baseball Classic & Grape Myrtle Festival

The Item was presented by Laurie Mosley, Director of Convention & Visitors Bureau and James Villarreal, Assistant Director Sports Complex. The Waxahachie Sports Complex and CVB was approached by Mike Langford of Premier Prospects for assistance with a large baseball tournament that his organization will be bringing to the Waxahachie Sports Complex on August 9-12, 2024 called the DFW Youth World Baseball Classic. Not only would this tournament bring over 1,000 athletes to Waxahachie representing 10 different countries, it would also bring all of their family members as the athletes play for the honor of their heritage thus creating a large positive economic impact for the city. This event will also be a “stay & play” event which will create a positive multi-day demand for our hotels in the month of August when we typically do not have as many events taking place.

The contingency funds used for the DFW Youth World Baseball Classic would assist with requests such as a 5-10-minute fireworks show the evening of opening ceremonies; sponsorship of bags for the players; and/or offset expenses of rental of the Sports Complex.

Additionally, the cost associated with putting on the 2024 Crape Myrtle Festival, such as the price of fireworks and other related expenses with producing a quality event on July 3rd for visitors and the community continue to rise each year. This year, the fireworks show alone is \$23,250. The CVB is diligent in securing sponsors for the event; however, there will likely be a funding gap for the event and contingency funds will be needed.

Action:

Dan Morton moved to approve the use of the remaining \$12,500 contingency funds within the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund to offset expenses related to the DFW Youth World Baseball Classic and increased costs associated with the 2024 Crape Myrtle Festival and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents as necessary. Motion was seconded by Jim Phillips and carried unanimously (6-0).

4. Discuss the YMCA Project for Cindy Hess Memorial Park

Jon McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Waxahachie YMCA, requested direction from the Board on their interest level in a partnership and expectations. He provided an update of fundraising efforts noting approximately \$2.1 million has been raised, including the ARPA funding.

City Manager Michael Scott explained Mr. McLaughlin is seeking direction from the Board as to what level of participation the Board is comfortable with supporting.

Board Members discussed management of the potential park, a one-time contribution for hard assets, without the responsibility of providing maintenance, and available contingency funds.

It was the general consensus of the Board to not participate in annual ongoing maintenance costs for the proposed park and to consider committing \$750,000. The Board requested to add the consideration to the July meeting.

5. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary