

## April 2017 Meeting Minutes

# Greater Nocona Area Economic Development Corporation (Type A) & Nocona Municipal Economic Development Corporation (Type B) at the Tales and Trails Museum April 4th, 2017

### Agenda items:

#### **I. Roll call and call to order: Type A & Type B – Confirm Quorum for Type A & Type B**

Type A Board President Kyle Reynolds called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Also present were Tracy O'Neal, Tyler Thomas and Yesika Rodriguez.

Type B Board Vice President Bob Herndon called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Also present were Dan Fenoglio, Billy Henley, Don Davis, Sandra Reynolds and Brandi Shipman.

Also present was Lynn Henley, Nocona City Manager.

##### **a. Approval of Type A and Type B March meeting minutes**

Both Boards approved the March minutes as written.

##### **b. Acceptance of February Type A & Type B financials**

Both Boards accepted the February financials.

### **THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WERE OPENED AT 12:12 PM**

#### **II. CITY OF NOCONA CDBG WATER GRANT PUBLIC HEARING**

The director explained the Nocona City Manager had asked for assistance with leverage funds for a Community Development Block Grant application for the city-wide main water trunk line. This is the main line from the lake. There was some work done a couple of years ago, and this would improve more of it. The grant is for \$275,000 and the city is asking \$13,750 (\$6,875 per Board) in leverage funds. Since the city just received \$500,000 for the Justin Building renovations, it is not expected to be selected this year. However, by applying this year it makes it more likely to receive such a grant next year. With direction from the Type A and Type B Board Presidents, staff submitted a letter to accompany the application noting interest in providing leverage funds. This is the official request to allocate the funds.

The Type B Board had placed the proposal on the 60-day clock and the City Council approved Type A Board participation in this Type B project at its February meeting (infrastructure). The public notice did not get published last month, so the public hearing was deferred to April.

#### **III. DIRT BIKE TRACK PUBLIC HEARING**

The director reminded the Boards they decided to offer a \$7,500 loan per Board (\$15,000 total) for 10-years at 2% interest with the first payment due 12 months from the loan to assist with preparation of the track for operations. The Type B Board placed the proposal on the 60-day clock and the City Council approved Type A Board participation at its March meeting (sports facility). The Montague County Commissioners Court agreed to allow this project in its ETJ at its March 27 meeting.

### **THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WERE CLOSED AT 12:15 PM WITH NO ADVERSE COMMENTS ON THE PROJECTS**

#### **IV. CITY PAVING PROPOSAL**

The city would appreciate assistance with needed street paving around the old Nocona Boot Factory. The City Manager will allocate about \$13K and the assistance of an additional \$13K would greatly contribute to increased necessary improvements. The Boards contributed to paving in the past, around the Nocona Envelope Company and the VFW. This would be a Type B project, but the Type A Board could request City Council approval to participate.

According to the latest financials The Type B Board has about \$70 K in its Wells Fargo money fund

account and the Type A Board has about \$32K in its Wells Fargo money fund account.

**Following discussion with the Nocona city manager, the Type B Board placed the proposal on the 60-day clock, but would like to review the necessary amount for the paving at the public hearing in May.**

## **V. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SUMMER INTERN**

The director said it's time again for the Texas Department of Agriculture Intern Program requests. This year we are submitting a request for assistance with developing volunteers to assist with the county-wide Lemonade Day program. Nocona has participated in the TDA program for several years with many beneficial results. It costs a small stipend (\$1,000) along with room and board for the intern.

**The Boards agreed to allocate up to \$2,500 total for the intern, but would prefer a project centered on improving social media programs for Nocona. The director was asked to change the application to reflect the new direction.**

## **VI. BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

According to the director, the Boards decided to offer a new (Bootstrap) and an older (Pioneer) business award last year. An email was sent out in March and the suggested recipients were well received by the Board members. The businesses selected will be honored with the awards at the Nocona Chamber of Commerce Banquet April 11.

## **VII. MAY MEETING DATE**

According to the director, he is out of town May 2, the normal meeting date. Additionally, the City Council has postponed its meeting to May 16 for election swearing-in purposes. The director suggests moving the NEDC meetings to Tuesday, May 9, if the members are able to adjust their schedules.

**The Boards agreed to the new date for the May meeting.**

## **VIII. Staff Updates and Travel**

### **a. NORTEX Fiber Optic Meeting Update**

The director explained Joe Gambill, director of community and economic development for the regional planning council, called this meeting to discuss a regional approach for fiber optics. Several service providers and a few communities attended. It became apparent quickly that many of the community leaders did not have the background Nocona has developed on fiber optic networks or even broadband service in general. It also appeared that a regional approach was more complicated because of the different telecommunications territories each provider responds to. The was talk of maybe the regional planning council members establishing minimums of service for internet providers and further discussions will be planned.

The director noted he had scheduled a meeting of the Nocona anchor institutions and interested parties for Monday, April 3. He also talked with NORTEX Communications about scheduling a joint meeting of the anchor institutions (school, hospital, NEDC) for the week of April 10. Hopefully, based on this meeting a decision on how to move forward will be made and contract negotiations will begin.

### **b. TexasOne SXSW Tech Meeting Update**

The director explained Nocona continues to be active with TexasOne and this event helped network possible business resources interested in Nocona fiber optic capabilities. The director made several contacts, including internationally. Of particular interest were conversations with officials from Avignon, France. They have a boot museum and were very interested in possibly including something about cowboy boots. Their university is also attempting to create a program for moving image instruction similar to the Nocona ISD program at the high school. Also, the director met a telecommunications lawyer that may be helpful in contract efforts with NORTEX Communications.

**c. Strong Foundations: The Economic Futures of Kids and Communities Update**

This was a lot more research oriented, but confirms our efforts to start introducing opportunities like Lemonade Day at an early age. Most interestingly, the director got a chance to speak briefly with Tucker Carlson, Fox News at the DC airport. He also originates from a rural community that is having problems although in California (not much interest in cowboy boots.) The director is working to see if we can't establish an opportunity to make it on to the Fox network with what Nocona is doing.

**d. TexasOne Spring Luncheon Update**

There is a major change with the departure of the TexasOne CEO, Tracye McDaniel. She's starting her own consulting company and plans to continue assisting Nocona in our efforts. The new leadership was aware of Nocona's leather industry and the many contributions Nocona has made to the TexasOne organization.

**e. US Hwy 82 4-lane Expansion Update**

There is still concern that the Texas Senate may delay monies for projects, but the general feeling in the Texas House is the voters just approved it, so it needs to be spent on highways. The director will continue to monitor the legislative actions concerning TXDOT.

**f. CDFA Texas Financing Roundtable, April 5, Dallas**

The director is attending, especially to develop resources for the fiber optic project.

**g. NORTEX Communications Anchor Institutions Meeting, April 10, Nocona**

The director is coordinating this meeting, following the financing roundtable. The expectations are to develop a road map towards finalization of fiber optic network plans.

**h. Broadband Communities Summit, May 1 – 4, Dallas** The director is attending.

**IX. Items of community interest**

- a. April 8 Nocona Nights, Two Tons of Steel, Daddy Sam's
- b. April 11 Nocona Chamber of Commerce Banquet, Veranda Inn Event Center
- c. April 13 – 16 Light on the Land Plein Air, Saint Jo (Donna Howell-Sickles Studio and the Main Street Gallery sponsor an open air painting event for artists)
- d. April 15 Acoustic Jam and Potluck Meal at the Senior Citizen Center
- e. April 21 – 23 Bowie Chisholm Trail Celebration, Bowie
- f. May 4 – 6 Cruisin' Nocona, includes Vicari Car Auction and Nocona Gas Junkies Car Show

**II. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm**