

February 2017 Meeting Minutes
Greater Nocona Area Economic Development Corporation (Type A) &
Nocona Municipal Economic Development Corporation (Type B)
at the Tales and Trails Museum February 7th, 2017

Agenda items:

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

Type A Board Vice President Tyler Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. Also present were Tracy O’Neal, Kyle Reynolds and Yesika Rodriguez.

Type B Board President Phil Staley called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. Also present were Don Davis, Billy Henley, Sandra Reynolds and Brandi Shipman.

Also present were Kurt Lemley, Director of Premier Player Sports and NellAnn McBroom, Executive Director for Nocona Chamber of Commerce.

a. Approval of Type A and Type B January meeting minutes

Both Boards approved the January minutes as written.

b. Acceptance of December Type A & Type B financials

Both Boards accepted the December financials.

II. INDIAN OAKS GOLF COURSE PROJECT

The director noted that the request is for a 50/50 split between the committee and the Nocona EDCs for a new mower at \$33,000. It would be a three-year payment \$5,500 (\$2,750 per Board). Cart batteries would be another \$3,495 (\$1,747.50 per Board) and Zeolite treatment of \$6,800 (\$3,400 per Board). That’s a total of \$15,795 (\$7,897.50 per Board). Board members noted that \$11,000 (\$5,500 per Board) had already been budgeted, but this would add the additional cost of the mower, which was not anticipated.

The Type B Board placed the proposal on the 60-day clock and the Type A Board requested staff place the proposal on the City Council agenda to approve participation in a Type B project (sports facility). The City Council approved Type A Board participation at its December meeting. There were no negative comments at the January public hearing.

The Type B and A Boards approved the project and requested staff place it on the February City Council agenda for approval to expend the funds.

III. PREMIER PLAYER SPORTS BASEBALL FIELDS PROJECT

The Boards previously determined to fund the ABI-S360 Zero Turn Machine and all of its attachments totaling \$30,500 with a 60-month lease-purchase agreement through the Nocona Chamber of Commerce. Terms were at 5 ½% interest with payments of \$582.55 monthly (\$291.28 per Board). The Type B Board placed the proposal on the 60-day clock and the Type A Board requested staff place the proposal on the City Council agenda to approve participation in a Type B project (sports facility). The City Council approved Type A participation at its December meeting. There were no negative comments at the January public hearing

The Type B and A Boards approved the grant of up to \$300 per month, per Board (\$600 per month total) to the Nocona Chamber of Commerce and requested staff place it on the February City Council agenda for approval to expend the funds.

IV. CITY OF NOCONA CDBG WATER GRANT PROPOSAL

The director explained that the Nocona City Manager is again asking for assistance with leverage funds for a Community Development Block Grant 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 placed the proposal on the 60-day clock and the Type A Board requested staff place the proposal on the February City Council agenda to approve participation in a Type B project (infrastructure).

V. FIBER OPTIC PROPOSAL

The director told the Boards he had attended a meeting with the NORTEX Council of Governments in Wichita Falls and the federal representative for the US Department of Agriculture in late January concerning possible USDA funds for broadband. Unfortunately, since Windstream offers DSL, Nocona does not currently qualify for USDA funds.

The director again met with NORTEX Communications company from Muenster and has developed a possible plan for obtaining fiber optic service in Nocona during 2017. The Nocona EDCs would consider a contract with NORTEX Communications to lease two strands of fiber on the ZAYO circuit recently installed through town. The cost would be about \$3,000 a month (\$1,500 per Board) on a 20-year term for a total investment of \$720,000 (\$360,000 per Board). This money would then be used as a match for an Economic Development Administration grant for NORTEX to develop service in Nocona beginning with key institutions like the city, hospital and schools, as well as Hwy 82 and downtown businesses. The network would incrementally grow to accommodate other businesses and residences during the contract.

The director next met with the Regional Director for the Economic Development Administration to discuss this proposal by NORTEX Communications. Unfortunately, EDA will not provide grant monies to an individual business. Therefore, the director is working with NORTEX Communications to determine if they would allow Nocona EDCs to own the fiber and they would build and operate it, probably on a lease-to-own basis. This falls in line with the NEDCs' original proposal to NORTEX COG, who previously noted it would be February before they would be available to assist with such a grant application.

The Boards and City Council had already approved application for federal monies. Thus, the director will continue to pursue specific options and costs for an application hopefully by the end of March.

VI. Staff Updates and Travel

a. Project Overland Update

The director has tried to contact the site selector several times, but no response has occurred. The director will continue his efforts.

b. TXDOT US HWY 82 Expansion Meetings

Type B Board member Bob Herndon penned a letter to the Texas Department of Transportation office in Wichita Falls following the initial meeting. It was signed by the City Mayor, City Councilmen, Nocona EDCs' Presidents, Nocona ISD Superintendent and Board President and the Nocona Chamber of Commerce President. Additionally, Nocona EDC staff developed a petition collecting about 750 signatures from residents against the bypass proposal and requesting completion of the four-lane divided highway between Nocona and the Clay County

line. The petitions were presented at the Feb. 1 TXDOT meeting in Nocona. Additionally, the Montague County Commissioners, the NORTEX COG and the America's Small Business Development Administration office in Wichita Falls agreed to endorse the letter.

During the director's visit in Austin for the Texas Transportation Forum indications were that the HWY 82 expansion would probably make the initial four-year list for implementation. Given that the Wichita Falls District has already begun the planning for the expansion that should be feasible. (Nocona officials have been reassured a Nocona by-pass would not be part of the submission for the District's 10-year transportation plan)

c. TexasOne Cuban Trade Mission Update

The director attended the trade mission and the Nokona baseball gloves were a huge hit with both the Cuban delegates and several others in attendance. Photos from the presentation were passed on to Rob Storey for marketing purposes. In addition, during the meeting the director had conversations with the Special Assistant to the new Texas Secretary of State concerning his priority on rural economic development. The director was invited to meet with the Secretary of State Rolando Pablos and began conversations on assisting with the Secretary's program. There were also conversations about being able to schedule a visit to Nocona by the President of TexasOne and other Texas economic development officials to tour the glove and cowboy boot factories with an eye towards using both in their marketing efforts.

d. TXDOT Forum, Feb. 5 – 7, Austin

The director discovered that one of the TXDOT Commissioners is acquainted with Nocona, since he is a former President of TexasOne. Additionally, the director at a couple of workshops spoke with other commissioners about this long-delayed project and they appeared to have support for its early completion.

e. Leadership Montague County Austin Trip Feb 15 & 16

There will be 34 people on the tour. Besides the LMC Board (of which the director is secretary) and the 2016 and 2017 class members, staff from US Representative Mac Thornberry's Wichita Falls office, Sen. Craig Estes' regional office and Rep. Drew Springer's Gainesville office are attending. Meetings were confirmed with Gov. Abbott, but were recently cancelled. The director is attempting to reinstate the meeting. There will be a meeting with Secretary of State Rolando Pablos and several others. There will also be discussions with a variety of state agencies in Austin.

f. Strong Foundations: The Economic Futures of Kids and Communities, Washington, D.C March 23-24, 2017

The director is attending.

g. Broadband Communities Summit, May 1 – 4, Dallas

The director is attending

VII. Items of community interest

- a. February 11 Nocona Nights Valentine's Day Dance
- b. February 16 – 19 Mardi Gras Nocona Style
- c. It was noted by Kurt Lemley there would also be a Little Dribblers Tournament at the same time as the Mardi Gras. 40+ teams are expected to participate
- d. February 18 Acoustic Jam and Potluck Meal at the Senior Citizen Center

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm