

AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEETING
APRIL 4, 2016
CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Regular Meeting Minutes

4/4/2016 - Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Katherine Rogers, Dale Marks, Charles Keniston, Eric Farewell

Ex-Officio - Pete Perez, City Commissioner

Guests: Wilbur Mathurin - Hoyle, Tanner & Associates; Betty Hill - FBO

Staff: Jennifer Nanek, Assistant to the City Manager; Teresa Allen, Assistant Director - Public/Support Services; Kenneth Fields, City Manager;

2. Approval Of Minutes

Eric Farewell made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

City Commissioner Perez expressed concern about the safety issues at the Airport discussed at the last meeting and wants to be sure they are being addressed. Eric Farewell said that the new airport manager will be sure the rules are being followed. The Chair agreed that there are valid safety concerns and that hopefully the new manager will learn what the issues are and address the concerns. Dale Marks stated that he called Ryan at the FAA and shared his concerns. Betty Hill said that the FAA called her and will be out at the airport in 2 weeks. They have all met to discuss these concerns, the meeting was productive and safety is a shared number one concern.

4. UPDATE BY CITY STAFF

Kenneth Fields, City Manager, said that there is a lot more activity at the Airport now and therefore an Airport Manager is necessary to oversee all the operations as the Airport grows. The current FBO will now be able to focus on her interests and expand the operation. He said that safety will be a key element of overseeing the airport. They had an extensive search with great candidates who applied. As the Airport grows hopefully it will be able to sustain itself. Mr. Fields encouraged the members to go to the Airport Manager who is now available for questions or any concerns.

Mr. Fields also gave an update on the Utilities expansion along West 60 which will help development at the Airport. They may have to look at expanding aprons next year. Other needs include a road on the west side of the Airport. There is a need additional access to the Airport, probably on the west side which will be needed for any emergencies. Mr. Fields reported on the annexation of American Perlite Company, a new business for the City, this is the building by Airport road and is currently hiring.

Dale Marks expressed need for a better sign and entrance. Mr. Fields agreed and that a new sign is desirable. If money can be generated to pay for it then it may happen in the future.

5. Old Business

Teresa Allen reported that she did talk to Juan Brown at the FAA and FDOT and they would like the City to resolve these issues ourselves. They will step in if the new manager cannot address the concerns.

5.I. Environmental Assessment

Wilbur Mathurin, Hoyle Tanner & Associates distributed an update on the Airport Development project. The design is at the 90% completion level and they are working on bids for the runway extension and rehabilitation. He explained that FAA is paying for the rehabilitation portion and that FDOT funds will pay for the extension. He said that the total cost of both projects is estimated to be \$3.5 million and expected construction will begin on October 1st. Mr. Mathurin commented that the Airport has come a long way in the past 10 years with a lot of positive growth and that the current issues can be easily overcome.

5.II. Airport Manager Update

5.II.i. Introduction Of New Airport Manager

Teresa Allen introduced the new Airport Manager who is Alexander Vacha and invited Alex to address the authority and share his background. Mr. Vacha told the members about some of his background in the US Army and Aviation. He said that he is looking forward to taking the Airport to the next level. He said he looks forward to working with everyone to iron out the issues.

Dale Marks expressed concern about a lack of communications at the Airport. Mr. Vacha stated that he shares and understands his concerns. He emphasized that safety is a concern of his as well. There will be weekly meetings with James and Teresa to set goals and review progress.

Commissioner Perez shared his concerns that the safety issues be addressed quickly. Mr. Vacha said that proper procedures are very important and will be sure they are established quickly.

6. New Business

7. FBO REPORT

Betty Hill, FBO, said that she was glad to meet Alex Vacha. She said that there have been no violations among her pilots over the past 45 years. They have met with Eric Farewell and hopefully the issues can be handled within. We now can succeed as some safety issues have been worked out. Everyone now has standard safety operating procedures. She then introduced some of her pilots in attendance. She reviewed the report which is attached to these minutes. Ms. Hill then shared recent publicity of their recent events in parachuting magazines. She also reported on recent events at the Airport. She then emphasized the need for additional parking. She also said that mosquito spraying is going on.

8. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Eric Farewell reported on a potential company based in Germany that is considering a move to Lake Wales. He has been named to the Sun-n-Fun advisory board, they are working on directing some attention to other airports in the area including Lake Wales.

He agreed on the need for additional parking and suggested a possibility as this is a safety concern.

He expressed concerns about requirements for board membership to allow non-residents who use the Airport to serve on the board as well. Mr. Fields said we can look at this and bring a proposal back. Mr. Farewell and the other members agreed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST

Commission Secretary