

CITY OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS  
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
December 17, 2019  
9:00 a.m.

The regular meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Terry Dawkins.

The following Committee members were present: Chairman Terry Dawkins, Committee members: Tom Baker, and Tommy Ayers. Also, in attendance were City Manager Mell Smigielski, Airport Director Matthew Overton and City Clerk Maryanne Schrader. Bill Imfeld and Jack Owen were excused.

**Motion** by Committee Member Tom Baker and seconded by Committee Member Tommy Ayers to approve the minutes of November 19, 2019. All ayes. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - Chair T. Dawkins asked for any comments from the floor. No one came forward.

- A. Discussion on November Concert - Penny and Michael Pinkerton representing the non-profit, Healing Tools, came forward to say they are organizing a concert and are requesting the airport as the location. The event is scheduled for November 13, 14, and 15. They plan to open at 2 p.m. with the last song at 11 p.m. They will have professional people to assist with the event and Bass Pro is one of their sponsors. They estimate 10-15,000 people per day.

Chair T. Dawkins suggested asking the Tourist Development Council to assist them. Airport Director M. Overton said he is understaffed, so he would need people, resources, a security plan, and a map. Additionally, the insurance agent stated they would need an extra insurance policy. He added he does not have level space and no structure in place to accommodate that many people. He also needs FAA clearance.

Discussion ensued on the encumbrance of the tenants and businesses at the airport.

Mayor Campbell came forward and said the venue is important to DeFuniak Springs and did not think flight service would be affected. He added we are marketing the city to bring people here and visit, so the event would enhance the city.

Committee Member Tom Baker said he would like to see a plan to determine whether there would be an interruption of service.

- B. Airport Director Matthew Overton said Mr. Ward, their technician, passed them on the FAA Re-Certification on AWOS.
- C. Airport Director Matthew Overton went over the AWOS system stating currently, we have a tech and a data transfer company that provides the weather reporting. He wants one entity to service and provide the system, so he will be going out for bids.
- D. Airport Director Matthew Overton said Terry Heading with the USDA did the inspection. The hangars passed his inspection, and we may get another grant of around \$90,000 for a hanger.
- E. Airport Director Matthew Overton announced ONVOI has vacated the large hanger and Gulf Coast arrives in January. He is bringing the 142 with multi-engine school here. Gib Minor spoke up stating he is planning to do the move in stages. His administrative part is coming first, and he plans to share his conference room. He is getting FAA approval on moving the simulator. He hopes to be able to operate by February. He added he submitted his Letter of Intent to expand the 141 school and plans to start with a ground school.

In response to Committee member T. Baker, Mayor Campbell came forward to state he was not sure why ONVOI left, but they were going to have a facility at Rock Hill, as they have several different aspects of training. Airport Director M. Overton said he still supports their operations.

- F. Airport Director Matthew Overton stated Jones and Frank will be the new recertification service providers and at a cheaper cost.

G. Airport Director Matthew Overton Liberty Partners have pressed forward with the DEO Grant Application and the 927 expansion.

H. Airport Director Matthew Overton said he had a meeting with Scott Bender of Gulf Power and verbally pledged a grant for Marvel of Flight. Mr. Bender said there are some meters that will need to be addressed.

In reply to Committee member T. Baker, Airport Director Matthew Overton said it was a community involvement grant.

In reply to Mayor Campbell, Airport Director Matthew Overton said that Kristy at Public Works has handled a lot of the work in the past, and she is making great progress attracting sponsors.

I. Airport Director Matthew Overton went over the 100LL truck cost and style quotes review stating an older model is about \$10,000 and a new one is \$120,000. He is looking for an 80's model Chevy that we can maintain ourselves for around \$15,000.

Discussion ensued on the old low lead truck that Shell loaned which was constantly breaking down, so they returned it. Airport Director Matthew Overton said he called Shell about leasing another one, but the expense was not warranted. He added the contract with Jones and Frank will provide the metering by Wi-Fi, so we will be able to monitor and track our fueling. Jet A tank will also be self-servicing.

J. Airport Director Matthew Overton updated on ONVOI stating they owe up to \$2,000 in payments and late fees. He hopes to clear it up by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

K. Airport Director Matthew Overton gave a Marvel of Flight update by stating Red Thunder, parachuting team, Bouncy House, rides, and food are secured. He added that "Rides and Warbirds" is the theme with the date set for March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

L. Airport Director Matthew Overton said he has not received the written update from John Collins. He received the rewrite on the grant and scope of work and plans to take it to the Council as an addendum.

Mayor Campbell asked if the TDC sent the \$6,000 grant for Marvel of Flight, but Airport Director Matthew Overton said he has not received it. Mayor Campbell said Chris Mitchell may have information on the qualification.

Committee member T. Baker asked about the budget and whether it was moving forward, and Airport Director Matthew Overton replied he plans to take the budget to the Council. He explained the verbiage was expanded to utilize the money for land leveling, tree clearing and painting. City Manager M. Smigielski said the Council meeting is January 13th. Airport Director Matthew Overton replied DOT is happy and is awaiting our approval.

**Motion** by Chair T. Dawkins and seconded by Committee member T. Ayers to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Approved by:

  
Terry Dawkins, Airport Advisory Committee Chairperson

Minutes submitted by,

  
Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk

