

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

December 3, 2019

6:00 P.M.



RECEIVED
12-11-19 @ 3:30pm *af*

PRESENT: Robert Acuff, Mike Hill, Brad Johnson, Austin Jaynes, Ginger Holdren, Randall Jenkins, Ray Lyons and Robin McKamey
ABSENT: none
CALL TO ORDER: Austin Jaynes, Chairman
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

- Approval of Agenda: On motion by Mike Hill, seconded by Robin McKamey the agenda was approved by voice roll call vote.
- Approval of Minutes: On motion by Ray Lyons, seconded by Robin McKamey the minutes of the November meeting were approved by voice roll call vote.
- Public Comments: none

A presentation by Elizabethton City Schools was next on the agenda. It was stated Vince Jordan, owner of a Virtual Reality business had been mentoring Elizabethton High School students and potentially wanted to lease space at the Workforce Development site to locate part of his business in Carter County. In an effort to keep them in our area, it was said Mr. Jordan was committed to hiring area high school students with VR knowledge after graduation introducing them to a high paying/livable wage field. One high school student, Levi Shingleton, expressed his passion for VR classes/labs stating they had changed his life in one (1) semester. An Overview of Virtual Reality presented by the school's representative is attached to the minutes. They stated Mr. Jordan's goal was to lease and secure a part of the Workforce Development facility, make some minor changes and move part of his business to Carter County. It was stated they would continue to work with the Mayor on the project.

- New Business: Chairman Jaynes presented the following three (3) bids submitted for the paving of the parking lot located beside the BP and across from the Airport at the Workforce Development site: CAPPS-\$153,705, Summers/Taylor-\$131,041.65 and the Carter County Highway Department-\$106,060. As the lowest bid was from the County Road Department, motion was made by Randall Jenkins, seconded by Robin McKamey to reserve the funds from Capital Improvements, motion to be reported to the Budget Committee to bring to the full commission. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.
- Old Business: At this time the above noted lease was again discussed with Attorney Hardin stating the lease would be a basic one and he could draw it up once all the specifics were addressed. He said the county needed to know what their responsibility in the remodeling phase was and what was the responsibility of the lessee. They stated the length of the lease needed to be discussed and the charge for same. The committee decided to work with the Mayor in the negotiations, gather the pertinent information and bring their finding to the next meeting. This item was left on the agenda.

At the suggestion of Brad Johnson, motion was made by Ray Lyons, seconded by Robert Acuff to solicit AE firms and submit RFP's for a professional evaluation of the Workforce Development site including, but not limited to, the cosmetics, energy efficiency, HVAC and water quality in an effort to determine what repairs/upgrades needed to be made. By voice roll

call vote, motion carried.

Motion was then made by Mike Hill, seconded by Robin McKamey to enter into negotiations for leasing space to Mr. Jordan immediately. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

Chairman Jaynes stated they were still putting together the RFP for the energy savings update for the Workforce Development site.

As Commissioner Frazier was not present at the meeting, the small business incubator report was put off until the next meeting.

Chairman Jaynes stated the EOC project was ready to be started and a preconstruction meeting would be held on December 16, 2019, at the 911 conference room.

Chairman Jaynes said he had not heard anything regarding the Courthouse security project since the contract was released.

No action was taken on the renewal of Mr. Kirby's contractor license.

Mayor Barnett stated two (2) days had been set to pour footers at the Sluder property but it had rained both days. He said they were only waiting on suitable weather.

Chairman Jaynes stated he was waiting on Gary Smith to get the ADA transition plan to him.

Chairman Jaynes stated he had contacted the Director of Planning and Zoning for the information he already had pertaining to the back door of the Clerk & Master's office.

Motion was made by Ginger Holdren, seconded by Robin McKamey to accept the Ralph and Kathleen Smith Carter property as a donation to the county and name it as they have requested. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried. This motion to be presented to the full commission.

Motion was made by Robert Acuff, seconded by Randall Jenkins to include in the RFP for an AE to evaluate the Workforce Development building, the fact they were considering the possibility of putting a county archive in that building. He stated it would have to be a controlled environment to preserve documents from further deterioration and they could consider that while they were there to possibly identify a suitable location. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

Chairman Jaynes stated the motion previously passed to award a contract for the request for sneeze guards in the Trustee's Office needed to be rescinded. This was due to the fact they had come up with a more secure solution to their request and the previous motion needed to be taken off the table. Motion was made by Robert Acuff, seconded by Randall Jenkins to rescind the previous motion regarding the Trustee's Office. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ray Lyons, seconded by Randall Jenkins to contract a structural engineer for their input on the project for the Trustee's Office. By voice roll call, motion carried.

- Commissioner Comments: Randall Jenkins questioned why Gary Smith had not yet submitted the ADA transition plan stating the county was on a time frame with that.

On motion by Randal Jenkins, seconded by Ginger Holdren and by voice roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry:

Austin Jaynes, Chairman

An Overview of Virtual Reality

Elizabethton High School

We opened our VR lab in fall of 2019 with 15 stations (powerful CPU, Oculus Rift headset, handsets, and 2 screens) and 2 classes for a total of 30 spots. All spots were filled quickly.

Teachers have been using the lab during its one available period to deliver course content.

We plan to buy 15 untethered Oculus Quest units so teachers can use them in their own classrooms

Why VR for learning?

VR & Learning, by the National Training Laboratory, advised retention rates for lecture style learning were at 5%, with reading rates at 10%. Meanwhile, the teaching method of VR scored a retention rate of 75%. <https://carlosjochoa.com/2019/02/15/future-jobs-opportunities-around-vr-ar/>

Striker just released their study with Walmart that proved VR training is more effective and better received by employees.

Studies have shown that with AR and VR, users recall the experience as if it were a real memory, which enables 40 to 60 percent higher retention rates.

The VR Industry

In 2012 Oculus initiated a Kickstarter campaign, raising almost \$2.5 million. Two years later, Oculus was purchased by Facebook for \$2 billion.

EON began in 1999 with two workers and grew to 90 by 2015. Today, it has nearly 250 employees and is looking to add 110 more in the next year as demand for VR products increases.

2016 alone almost 250 thousand Oculus Rift headsets have been sold worldwide Oculus will sell 1.3 million units of its anticipated Quest headset this year, and annual XR revenue will reach \$11.5 billion.

According to a recent report from the International Data Corp., worldwide revenues for the AR and VR market are forecast to increase by 100 percent or more over the next four years, with total spending set to hit some \$215 billion by 2021.

VR Jobs

Demand for job candidates with VR knowledge is up 37% over last year

Apple, Samsung, Facebook, Intel, etc. have gone on a hiring spree for positions with "AR/VR" in 2019. (<https://www.wired.com/story/future-ar-vr-survey/>)

The big players in the VR market—Oculus, Google and Samsung— account for about 2% of the jobs, but the majority of jobs are with smaller companies and startups

Market demands for qualified information and communications technology (ICT) specialists will not be met, seeing a shortfall of up to *500,000 ICT professionals in 2020*. Virtual Reality solutions are amongst those with some of the highest market demand in the ICT sector.

Average of the top 10 jobs associated with VR is \$98.7k (<https://circuitstream.com/blog/xr-jobs-in-demand/>)

VR Applications

Most people think of the gaming and entertainment industry.

“Industries like architecture, engineering and construction will undoubtedly use VR for 3D design, while medical, military and education will certainly take advantage of the tech to do simulations, safety training or to enable people to experience and explore remote places or inhabitable environments.” <https://hiring.monster.com>

This is not the future but the present

If you go into the US Army, you will be trained on one of 100,000 Microsoft Halo Lens VR headsets that cost \$480 million.

If you go shopping in the Mall of America (the country's largest mall) you will speak to an augmented reality elf called Ellie, who will help you shop.

If you go into an Audi dealership, you will be put into an Oculus Rifts VR headset to help customers configure the car they are interested in (this was started in 2015).

If you visit Israel, you can go to the Visitor's Bureau and use VR to immerse yourself in how the city looked 5,000 years ago.

If you attended the Notre Dame and Stanford football game last weekend, you could have been placed into a VR headset to feel what it is like to be a Notre Dame football player.

If you use the app of Wayfair (one of the largest online home retailers) you can use VR your smart phone to place furniture in your home to see how it will look before you buy it.

Your kids and grandkids will be using VR to play Pokemon in their spare time (one of the 150 million people every month to do so).