



November 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Opening & Introductions:

The November meeting was held at Honors Hall. Barry Britain opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Members present were: Alamo Worksource, A-Lert Building Systems, Cemex, CTTC, Coleman, Comal ISD, Detex, Edisto, EH Systems, Fed-Ex Services, Great American Products, Hawkins Personnel, JBPrice, NB Chamber, NB Herald-Zeitung, NB Smokehouse, Priority Personnel, Star Manufacturing, & Symons

Guests present were Mike Morrison from the City of New Braunfels

Officer Reports:

Barry talked about the importance of voting for the manufacturing members. The email vote requests are for items that the NBMA board has approved as worthy to the organization. The email voting is a proxy voting method. It is the member's opportunity to voice their opinion, agreement or disagreement to a voting topic. A non-response to voting is considered approval by the NBMA Board.

Barry discussed the up coming officer elections in January. He is encouraging volunteers from manufacturing members to consider running for the NBMA positions to give the NBMA board fresh ideas.

Paul provided an update on the financial status.

NBMA has voted and approved to fund 40 accuplacer tests for those New Braunfels/Comal County residents who cannot afford to pay for the tests themselves.

Committee Reports:

None

Featured Program:

Mike Morrison, New Braunfels City Manager, was the guest speaker.

Mr. Morrison discussed how New Braunfels is a city in transition. Since 2002, there has been a 37% increase in population to around 58,000 residents. The city has obtained a 50% increase in land area by acquisition. The ETJ has expanded to 152 square miles due to the increase in population to over 50,000. In 10 years, New Braunfels will have a population of 80,000 to 100,000. 2200 acres along I35 are owned by the state for development north of New Braunfels. With the current and expected growth, demands for services will increase.

5 years ago, New Braunfels had a street maintenance budget of \$183,000. This is now over \$1 million funded through certificates of obligation and other sources. The city has added 25 firefighters and 1 fire station. In the next 5 years, the city will need to build 1 more fire station and replace 2 others that are antiquated. 20 police officers have been added. The city has allocated \$12 million in parts and recreation improvements. The Fisher Park acquisition is in development. This is not an urban park, but will have trails, tanks, etc... New Braunfels is working with CISD on road improvements. 16 acres of land have been deeded to the city from CISD for park areas. New Braunfels is trying to create pockets of open space among developments.

New Braunfels has reduce and held steady tax rates. Upgrades in bond ratings have helped the city attain lower interest rates. The city is experiencing a decrease in existing property values of 2.8%. However, some new properties and an increase in Guadalupe County values have resulted in an overall increase in tax revenue of 1.4%. This increase is under the initial projections, so the city has frozen salaries, cut back on travel and delayed some capital expenditures. Also, the city has streamlined processes to be more efficient and consistent

The census of 2010 will officially recognize New Braunfels as a city of over 50,000 residents. When this happens, the state automatically hands over control of traffic signals in the city limits on state roads. The city will be responsible for maintaining 43 signals instead of 8. Also, the city will be required to meet higher standards on drainage and water control/quality. Both these requirements will come without any funding. Also, the city expects that at least \$2 million will need to be allocated for street maintenance. In 5 years, the city will be losing some sales tax revenues due to a recent legislature change regarding warehouse/distribution taxation.

New Braunfels will need to pursue alternate funding for some services. Enterprise funds from the civic center, river fund, and airport has decreased the burden on the general fund.

New Braunfels is approaching the point where the tax rate will need to increase to maintain services and keep up with growth. The demand for services does not decrease with economic downturns, rather there are some increases from people using city services.

New Braunfels is still leading all indicators from around the country. The city is economically sound but will be facing some challenges. The city is starting on a strategic business plan for the airport. \$13 million has been received from the state for airport improvements. The city is looking at the airport as a huge opportunity for growth.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 11:45am on December 15 at Honors Hall. The program is Doug Toney from the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

Respectfully submitted:
Paul Webber
NBMA Secretary/Treasurer 2009