

Durant Economic Development Council

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE DURANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ON JANUARY 8, 2008 AT 7:45 A.M. CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DURANT INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY.

I. Call to Order. – Tommy Kramer

Tommy Kramer called the regular monthly meeting to order. Mr. Kramer welcomed the following guests: Brian Payne – Staff Reporter Durant Daily Democrat and Dr. Jesse Snowden – Interim President for Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

II. Roll Call. – Kimberly Bowen

The following members were present: Curtis Armor, Chris Allen, Ron Bennett, John Cathey, Ron Cross, Roy Davis, James Dunegan, Bryan Hallmark, Mike Goodwin, Tommy Kramer, Fran Mickle, Dean Pollock, Janet Reed, Dr. Michael Turner, Earlene Walker, Jason Winborn, and Tim Young.

The following members were absent: Jeff Hammock, Matt Gregory, Jackie Harms, Kathy Hendrick, Greg Massey, Nate Morrison, Mayor Tomlinson, and Tony VanSchuyver.

The following guests were present: Brian Payne – Staff Reporter Durant Daily Democrat and Dr. Jesse Snowden – Interim President for Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

III. Approval of Minutes of the Durant Economic Development Council December 11, 2007 Meeting. – Tommy Kramer

A motion was made by Fran Mickle and a second by James Dunegan to approve the minutes of the December 11th Durant Economic Development Council Meeting. Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Curtis Armor, Chris Allen, Ron Bennett, John Cathey, Ron Cross, Roy Davis, James Dunegan, Bryan Hallmark, Mike Goodwin, Tommy Kramer, Fran Mickle, Dean Pollock, Janet Reed, Dr. Michael Turner, Earlene Walker, Jason Winborn, and Tim Young.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Review the October 2007 City of Durant Sales Tax History Report. – Earlene Walker

Durant Economic Development Council

Minutes

Earlene Walker reviewed the October City of Durant Sales Tax Collection report. The October 1% city sales tax collected was \$204,686 in 2006 and \$224,160 in 2007 to result in an increase of \$19,474 (9.51%). The dedicated ¼ cent Economic Development sales tax collected for October of 2007 was \$56,040.31. In the last 46 months, there has been a total collection of \$2,409,296.33 for the ¼ cent Economic Development sales tax.

V. Welcome by Dr. Michael Turner, President of Southeastern Oklahoma State University to the Durant Economic Development Council. – Dr. Michael Turner

Dr. Michael Turner has been named the 18th President of Southeastern Oklahoma State University by the Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) Board of Regents. Dr. Turner, his wife Lisa, and daughters Madison and Megan are in the process of moving to Durant.

The regents voted to hire Dr. Turner late Wednesday after interviewing five candidates this week. A total of 77 applications were received for the position, which became vacant on January 17, 2007 when Glen D. Johnson left the presidency to assume the duties of Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System for Higher Education. Since that time, Dr. Jesse Snowden has served as Interim President of SOSU.

Dr. Turner was Vice President for Student Affairs at Rogers State University in Claremore, Oklahoma and assumed his new duties at Southeastern on Jan. 1, 2008.

At Rogers State University, Dr. Turner oversaw Student Development, Student Activities, Residential Life, Career Services, the Student Health Center, Counseling Services, TRIO Special Programs, the Child Development Center, Greek Life, Cheerleading and other student services for all three Roger State University campuses. He began his duties at Rogers State University in April 2003.

He also served eight years with the U.S. Marine Corps, where he earned the rank of captain. Dr. Turner received a doctorate in education from Oklahoma State University; a master's degree in college teaching with an emphasis in student personnel services and a bachelor's degree in industrial technology, both from Northeastern State University; and an associate in applied science in electronics technology from OSU-Okmulgee.

He is a current participant in the Leadership Oklahoma 2007–08 Class and a graduate of the Oklahoma Higher Education Leadership Academy. Dr. Turner serves as Vice President for the Claremore Public Schools Foundation Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Staff Parish Relations Committee for the First United Methodist Church. In addition, he is the Vice Chairman for the Oklahoma Council on Student Affairs and past Chairman for the Claremore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He is the Club Service Chair for the Claremore Rotary Club Board of Directors and a graduate of Leadership Rogers County.

Durant Economic Development Council

Minutes

Dr. Turner has a vision for a continued partnership with TEAM DURANT and encouraging students to become more involved within the community.

VI. Review and Update of Existing Economic Development Business Projects. – Tommy Kramer

- a. **Holiday Inn Express** – Construction on the new Holiday Inn Express is continuing for the 98-room, 4-story hotel located on 3-acres west of the Lowe’s Home Improvement Center. The building is now ‘in the dry”, the stucco of the exterior is in process, and the interior construction is in process. The opening schedule has been set for May/June 2008 weather permitting.
- b. **Hampton Inn & Suites** – Mike & Danny Patel with Signature Hospitality, LLC located in Irving, Texas are building an 80-room, 4-story hotel that will be located east of Shamrock Bank and across the street from Lowe’s Home Improvement Center. The concrete for the driveway is now complete and the first and second floor framing is now occurring.
- c. **Walgreen’s** – Construction is occurring on the Walgreen’s 14,000 square feet facility located on the corner of Main Street and University Place. Walgreen’s is on target for a March 2008 grand opening.
- d. **First United Bank** – Construction of the red iron frame and concrete flooring is now occurring at the site for First United Bank headquarters on Main Street. The 45,000 square foot 3-story addition to the headquarters administration complex will support the future growth of administrative personnel. This project is scheduled for completion in September 2008.
- e. **Southeastern Oklahoma State University** – Construction for the new arena–convocation center is in process. The 52,000 square-foot multi-purpose facility will feature 3,200 permanent seats with a total seating capacity of 4,100. It will be utilized for athletics events, graduations, convocations, concerts, and community events.

The project is funded through the May 2004 sales tax vote which was approved by Durant citizens. The new facility is located north of Bloomer Sullivan Gym and the completion of the project is scheduled for June 2008.

- f. **Arnett Insurance Agency** – The new Arnett Insurance Agency office on Main Street will be completed on January 24th, 2008. Mr. Arnett and his staff are preparing to make the transition of their insurance business into the new facility on January 28, 2008.

Durant Economic Development Council

Minutes

- g. **Steve Reeves Shopping Centers** – Steve Reeves is building two retail shopping center developments. The brick exterior is in process and the interior construction is now occurring at the 6,000 square foot strip style shopping center that will occupy up to 8 retailers on First Street and Elm Street. Construction also has begun on the strip style shopping center on West University. These shopping centers will be designed similar to his existing shopping center on West University.
- h. **Ed F. Davis** – John Davis the owner of Ed F. Davis, Inc. Anheuser-Busch Distribution is continuing construction with Plyler Construction on a new 63,000 square foot refrigerated distribution center. This is a \$5 million building investment located at 2600 Westside Drive. This building investment will result in the creation of 8 additional staff members for the distribution center operations. The project is on target for completion in April 2008.
- i. **GAMCO/Bobrick** – GAMCO/Bobrick has purchased additional land adjacent to the existing property for a future expansion to the facility.
- j. **The McSha Companies** – The McSha Companies have begun construction of seven new apartment buildings located on Wilson Street. This development is a \$2.3 million investment and will create 92 new apartments.
- k. **Oklahoma Natural Gas** – Oklahoma Natural Gas is constructing a 12” transmission line on South 9th. This transmission line will extend 4 plus miles and will be a \$4 million investment for our community.

VII. Special Recognition and Presentation to Dr. Jesse Snowden, Interim President – Southeastern Oklahoma State University. – Mayor Tomlinson, John Cathey, and Tommy Kramer

Mayor Tomlinson, John Cathey, and Tommy Kramer presented a desk clock in recognizing Dr. Jesse Snowden as Interim President for Southeastern Oklahoma State University and a board member of the Durant Economic Development Council.

VIII. Old Business.

There was no old business to discuss.

IX. New Business.

There was no new business to discuss.

X. Adjournment.

There was a motion made by James Dunegan and seconded by Ron Cross to adjourn. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.