

Durant Economic Development Council

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE DURANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 13, 2007 AT 7:45 A.M. CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DURANT INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY.

1. Call to Order. – Tommy Kramer

Tommy Kramer called the regular monthly meeting to order. Mr. Kramer welcomed the following guests: Bryan Hallmark – Industrial Coordinator for the Kiamichi Technology Center, Norma Noble, Deputy Secretary of Commerce for Workforce Development in Oklahoma City, Kerry Manning - Workforce Development Specialist for Big Five Community Services, and Brian Payne – Staff Reporter Durant Daily Democrat.

2. Roll Call. – Kimberly Bowen

The following members were present: Curtis Armor, Chris Allen, Ron Bennett, John Cathey, Ron Cross, James Dunegan, Mike Goodwin, Jackie Harms, Kathy Hendrick, Tommy Kramer, Greg Massey, Fran Mickle, Nate Morrison, Dean Pollock, Dr. Jesse Snowden, Mayor Tomlinson, Earlene Walker, and Jason Winborn.

The following members were absent: Roy Davis, Matt Gregory, Janet Reed, Tony VanSchuyver, and Tim Young.

The following guests were present: Bryan Hallmark – Industrial Coordinator for the Kiamichi Technology Center, Norma Noble, Deputy Secretary of Commerce for Workforce Development in Oklahoma City, Kerry Manning - Workforce Development Specialist for Big Five Community Services, and Brian Payne – Staff Reporter Durant Daily Democrat.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Durant Economic Development Council October 9, 2007 Meeting. – Tommy Kramer

A motion was made by John Cathey and a second by James Dunegan to approve the minutes of the October 9th Durant Economic Development Council Meeting. Motion carried with the following vote:

Aye: Curtis Armor, Chris Allen, Ron Bennett, John Cathey, Ron Cross, James Dunegan, Mike Goodwin, Jackie Harms, Kathy Hendrick, Tommy Kramer, Greg Massey, Fran Mickle, Nate Morrison, Dean Pollock, Dr. Jesse Snowden, Mayor

Tomlinson, Earlene Walker, and Jason Winborn.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

4. Review the September 2007 City of Durant Sales Tax History Report. – Earlene Walker

Earlene Walker reviewed the September City of Durant Sales Tax Collection report. The September 1% city sales tax collected was \$220,978 in 2006 and \$216,408 in 2007 to result in a decrease of \$4,570 (-2.07%). The dedicated ¼ cent Economic Development sales tax collected for September of 2007 was \$54,102.38. In the last 54 months, there has been a total collection of \$2,353,256.01 for the ¼ cent Economic Development sales tax.

5. Presentation of Grow Oklahoma from a Workforce and Economic Development Initiative by Norma Noble, Deputy Secretary of Commerce for Workforce Development in Oklahoma City.

Norma Noble gave a presentation on “Grow Oklahoma from a Workforce and Economic Development Initiative”. Led by the Governor’s Council for Workforce and Economic Development, Grow Oklahoma is about ensuring that Oklahoma has a distinct competitive advantage for attracting, growing and retaining businesses through a highly skilled and talented workforce. The campaign engages public and private sector leaders across the state to participate in developing solutions for Oklahoma’s key workforce and economic development challenges.

The ultimate goal of the campaign is to increase per capita income in Oklahoma. While Oklahoma’s overall unemployment rates have remained below the national average, new jobs in the past year have emerged at a rapid rate [20,000 jobs] in the state. However, more jobs do not automatically equate to a thriving economy for Oklahomans. The job growth rate is 50% larger than the population’s growth rate, and the working population will have to rise from 70% in 2005 to 91% in 2030 to meet the demand. With baby boomers retiring at an increased rapid pace for the next 15 years, Oklahoma is expected to grow 154,000 new jobs by 2014. These emerging jobs require a new set of workforce skills and talent.

The Grow Oklahoma Campaign provides solutions through three key initiatives:

- 1.) Growing talent, skills and knowledge by decreasing high school drop out rates and increasing retention rates at all levels, improving pathways and resources for entrepreneurship and innovation, and making career exploration and career guidance a priority in order to expand workforce talent that meets the demands of

business.

- 2.) Growing and delivering solutions for talent recruitment and retention by engaging businesses to better communicate their workforce needs, improving the lifelong skills of Oklahomans to meet the demands of the future, and provide talent and recruitment solutions to meet the needs of individuals and employers.
- 3.) Growing awareness and success with the value of lifelong learning and skills developments, the core issues and challenges facing individuals and businesses in growing and retaining talent, and our collective efforts as measured by the Grow Oklahoma scorecard.

6. Review of Existing Economic Development Projects. – Tommy Kramer

- a. **Holiday Inn Express** – Holiday Inn Express is building a new 98-room, 4-story hotel on a 3-acre located west of the Lowe’s Home Improvement Center.
- b. **Hampton Inn & Suites** – Mike & Danny Patel with Signature Hospitality, LLC located in Irving is 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. Site excavation and construction development began November 5, 2007.
- c. **Khan’s Fire – The Mongolian Grill** – The Khan’s Fire Mongolian Grill is located in the east end of the Schostak Shopping Center on University Place where the China Jade Restaurant was located. The Khan’s Fire restaurant is open 6 days a week serving lunch and dinner.
- d. **Walgreens** – Walgreens has begun construction on their 14,000 square feet facility located on the corner of Main Street and University Place. Walgreen’s is scheduled for an March 2008 grand opening.
- e. **Arnett Insurance Agency** – Arnett Insurance Agency has purchased the “old” Pizza Hut facility at 1118 West Main. Remodeling construction is now occurring in this facility and will be completed the first of 2008.

- f. **Steve Reeves Shopping Centers** – Steve Reeves is building two shopping center developments. Construction has begun on the 6,000 square foot strip style shopping center that will occupy up to 8 retailers on First Street and Elm Street. Construction has begun on the strip style shopping center on West University, also. These shopping centers will be designed similar to his existing shopping centers on West University.

- g. **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.

- h. **Eagle Suspensions** – There will be a Grand Opening Ceremony for Eagle Suspension on Friday, November 30th at 11:00 am. Lt. Governor Jari Askins, Senator Gumm, Representative Carey, Mayor Tomlinson, James Dunegan, and John Cathey will make a presentation to Wayne & Shirley Robinson and Eagle Suspensions at this Grand Opening Ceremony. There will be approximately 300 to 350 in attendance and lunch will be provided following the ceremony.

7. Old Business.

There was no old business to discuss.

8. New Business.

There was no new business to discuss.

9. Adjournment.

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