

Durant Economic Development Council

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE DURANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 9, 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, and Brian Payne – Staff Reporter Durant Daily Democrat.

2. Roll Call. – Kimberly Bowen

The following members were present: Curtis Armor, Ron Bennett, John Cathey, James Dunegan, Mike Goodwin, Matt Gregory, Tommy Kramer, Fran Mickle, Dean Pollock, Janet Reed, Tony VanSchuyver, Earlene Walker, and Jason Winborn.

The following members were absent: Chris Allen, Roy Davis, Jackie Harms, Kathy Hendrick, Greg Massey, Nate Morrison, Dr. Jesse Snowden, Mayor Tomlinson, and Tim Young.

The following guests were present: Bryan Hallmark – Industrial Coordinator for the Kiamichi Technology Center, and Brian Payne – Staff Reporter Durant Daily Democrat.

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

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

Aye: Curtis Armor, Ron Bennett, John Cathey, James Dunegan, Mike Goodwin, Matt Gregory, Tommy Kramer, Fran Mickle, Dean Pollock, Janet Reed, Tony VanSchuyver, Earlene Walker, and Jason Winborn.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Earlene Walker reviewed the August City of Durant Sales Tax Collection report. The August 1% city sales tax collected was \$210,927 in 2006 and \$237,573 in 2007 to result in a increase of \$26,646 (12.63%). The dedicated ¼ cent Economic Development sales tax collected for August of 2007 was \$59,393.77. In the last 44 months, there has been a total collection of \$2,299,153.50 for the ¼ cent Economic Development sales tax.

5. Review the August Oklahoma Labor Market Information Data – Tommy Kramer.

Tommy Kramer reviewed the August 2007 issue of the Oklahoma Labor Market Information Handout published by the Economic Research and Analysis Division of the Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission. The data for August 2007 shows that Durant’s unemployment was 3.7%, which is a decrease from July 2007 at 4.1%. The surrounding area workforce counties have the following August 2007 unemployment rate:

- Atoka 5.5%
- Choctaw 5.6%
- Coal 6.6%
- Johnston 4.8%
- Marshall 4.9%

The unemployment rate for the southern workforce investment area (Garvin, Pontotoc, Coal, Atoka, Bryan, Johnston, Murray, Carter, Love, and Marshall counties in Southeastern Oklahoma) is 3.9% for August 2007. Bryan County is tied at 3.7% for having the 10th lowest unemployment rate in the State of Oklahoma among the 77 counties.

6. Presentation of Enrollment, Job Impact, and Fire Training Center at the Kiamichi Technology Center. – Mike Goodwin, Campus Director

Mike Goodwin, Campus Director and Bryan Hallmark, Industrial Coordinator presented a PowerPoint presentation on the enrollment, job impact, and the new Regional Fire Training Center at the Durant Kiamichi Technology Center. The Kiamichi Technology Centers offer 9 full-time programs: Business Technology, Information Technology, Full-time Practical Nursing, ½ time Practical Nursing, Emergency Medical Technician, Computer Repair & Networking, Automotive Technology, Occupational Services, and Welding Technology. The total overall economic impact as a result of these programs is \$2,707,120 per year with 61 students receiving more than 686 college hours. The Business Industry Services had 3,101 enrolled in 2006-2007 for the 230 classes offered.

The Training Industry Program's current contracts are as follows:

Precision Response Corporation (PRC)	\$ 69,660 for 226 employees
Eagle Suspensions	\$ 49,959 for 60 employees
Icon Manufacturing	\$ 31,899 for 40 employees
<u>Roll Offs of America</u>	<u>\$ 10,206 for 15 employees</u>
Total of contracts	\$161,724 for 341 employees

The new Regional Fire Training Center at the Durant Kiamichi Technology Center is complete and operational. The facility offers a state-of-the-art training facility, which includes a truck pump pressure calibration and certification station, a 6-story fire fighter training facility, and a flashover-training center. There is a flashover training system, which simulates what a flashover inside a dwelling will do. A flashover is an extremely dangerous situation for any firefighter. The temperature, which is controlled in another room, will reach 1100; therefore, the firefighters will sit on the floor for this demonstration. The fire will "crawl" across the ceiling demonstrating a flashover and this enables the firefighter to gain knowledge in what to look for in a dwelling when a flashover occurs. Durant is the only fire department to exclusively use this training facility; however, there are several area fire departments that utilize this training facility.

The 6-story fire fighter training facility offers a variety of training scenarios to demonstrate and practice attic crawl spaces, elevator shafts and stairwells, extrication of individuals from grain mills and multiple story facilities. The facility is set up with rooms that have adjustable walls that can be configured differently for each drill to more closely resemble entry into a home or business. There are anchor hooks on the roof for repelling drills. The facility has recently installed a fire sprinkler system to aid firefighters in a "real-life" scenario of entering a building where the fire sprinkler system is operating as a result of a fire. The facility has four smoke systems installed to completely fill the tower with smoke, where a person couldn't see their hand in front of their face. The training facility has a ventilation system that will clear the tower of all the smoke in less than a minute. The District Attorney requested the use of the tower for S.W.A.T. training with riot gas last year and the ventilation system allowed for a perfect training facility for the use of the riot gas. The facility has exterior lighting installed to enable the use of the training facility at night.

7. 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. The concrete for the fourth floor has been poured and the red iron is being installed.
- b. **Hampton Inn & Suites** – Mike Patel with Signature Hospitality, LLC located in Irving will build 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 building permit should be issued in the next couple of weeks and site construction development is scheduled to 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 now open and John Wyatt the owner is planning the Grand Opening for this new restaurant in November.
- d. **Papa Bello Pizza** - Papa Bello Pizza is planning a Grand Opening & Pizza Cutting Ceremony for Friday, October 12, 2007 at 11:00 AM at the Wal-Mart Super Center. Lunch will be provided following the ceremony. We are very proud to welcome Mike Qassis, the owner of Papa Bello Pizza. The Durant unit is unit #13 for the Papa Bello Pizza franchise. The owners Chase & Michelle Canfield and Brittan & Tammy Ashjain flew in from the corporate headquarters located in Las Vegas for this special event.
- e. **Walgreens** – Walgreens has begun construction on their 14,000 square feet facility located on the corner of Main Street and University Place. The underground storm water detention system has been installed. Walgreen’s is scheduled for an April 2008 grand opening.
- f. **Arnett Insurance Agency** – Arnett Insurance Agency has purchased the “old” Pizza Hut facility at 1118 West Main. Mr. Arnett has begun remodeling and adding onto this facility.

- g. **Steve Reeves Shopping Center** – Steve Reeves is building two shopping center developments. Construction had begun on the 6,000 square foot strip style shopping center that will occupy up to 8 retailers on First Street and Elm Street. This shopping center will be designed similar to his existing shopping centers on West University.
- h. **American Heritage Industrial Access Road** – The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Industrial Access Road located on Industrial Road beside the American Heritage Equine Distribution Center inside the Eaker Field Industrial Air Park is now complete. This was a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant with \$18,450 match funds from the Durant Industrial Authority to complete this Industrial Access Road and water/sewer line projects.
- i. **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. The City has partnered with Ed F. Davis on an \$80,000 Community Development Block Grant to extend a new city water line to this distribution center facility. This building investment will result in the creation of 8 additional staff members.
- j. **Eagle Suspensions** – The Rail Spur is now complete and operational. This rail spur is a dual rail spur for the Eagle Suspensions and Hale Halsell Facilities. Eagle Suspensions hired Hub Construction to concrete the drainage ditch that runs down the side of their building beside the rail spur to assist with storm water drainage. The additional concrete that Eagle Suspensions paid for is now completed.

8. Old Business.

There was no old business to discuss.

9. New Business.

There was no new business to discuss.

10. Adjournment.

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