

DURANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

March 8, 2016 AT 8:00 A.M.

Durant Industrial Authority Conference Room

I. Call To Order at 8:00 a.m..... Tommy Kramer
Tommy Kramer called the regular monthly Durant Economic Development Council Meeting to order.

II. Opening Invocation Fran Mickle

III. Roll Call..... Laura Voorhies

The following members were present: Chris Allen, Curtis Armor, Shaun Banner, Robert Bourne, Ron Boyer, Scott Dewald, James Dunegan, Mike Goodwin, Bryan Hallmark, Jeff Hammock, Robert Holliday, Tommy Kramer, Darrell Mendez, Fran Mickle, Dr. Larry Minks, Janet Reed, Rick Roy and Jeff Tarrant.

The following members were absent: Sean Bradley, President Sean Burrage, Jeri Cockrell, Bert Davison, Eddy Dempsey, Mayor Stewart Hoffman, Greg Massey, Kyle McLemore and Rod Miller.

IV. Consider Approval of Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Meeting Tommy Kramer

Robert Holliday motioned to accept the minutes with a second by Dr. Larry Minks. The motion carried by:

Aye: Chris Allen, Curtis Armor, Shaun Banner, Robert Bourne, Ron Boyer, Scott Dewald, James Dunegan, Mike Goodwin, Bryan Hallmark, Jeff Hammock, Robert Holliday, Tommy Kramer, Darrell Mendez, Fran Mickle, Dr. Larry Minks, Janet Reed, Rick Roy and Jeff Tarrant.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

V. Update of Bryan County Labor Commuting Pattern/Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission..... Tommy Kramer

Tommy Kramer – Several months ago we developed the Training for Industrial Funds at the Durant Kiamichi Technology Center. This program has aided us in recruiting businesses like BrucePac, Cardinal Glass, Eagle Suspensions, The Tile Shop, Big Lots and Commercial Metals Company for employee training.

Tommy Kramer reviewed the two employment data handouts: 1) Bryan County Commute Pattern-December 2015 and 2) Bryan County Employment – December 2015 (see attached).

Darrell Mendez – What are the jobs coming from Grayson County?

Tommy Kramer – I will contact the Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission to obtain as much information as possible. We are seeing more maintenance people coming to Durant-], such as electricians, plumbers, pipefitters, welders, etc. at the present time.

Janet Reed – Last year, we showed it was the Choctaw Casino that was the biggest draw to the community.

VI. Review of Durant BrucePac Industrial Project as of March 7, 2016..... Tommy Kramer

Tommy Kramer – The J.C. Potter Company started in 1949 with processing whole hog pork sausage with Mr. & Mrs. Potter along with their three children developed the company to be the largest manufacturing company in Bryan County. The company sold after the passing of Mr. Glenn Potter to an investment company in Chicago, eventually the company went out of business. I was more than pleased when the BrucePac Company made the decision to come to our community and chose the former J.C. Potter Sausage facility to become their own state-of-the-art meat processing facility. They have invested well over \$20,000,000 in the facility to date. The company’s finished products are pre-cooked chicken, beef, pork and turkey. They produce seafood in the Oregon plants, but will not produce that in the Durant plant.

BrucePac received their USDA Grant of Inspection approximately ten days ago. It is very difficult to obtain this federal inspection status. This facility is a pre-cook test and hold global food safe facility, which you must be to sell to large companies such as Wal-Mart. This is a great step forward for Durant and our community.

Presented a few pictures of the BrucePac facility testing production on March 7, 2016, the first day of production.

VII. Presentation About the New ISO Fire Rating in the Community Roger Joines-Fire Chief

Tommy Kramer – Chief Joines is a community leader, family man and 100% into helping our community grow and increase the Quality of Life for our citizens.

Chief Joines – We tour every new facility in order to conduct a pre-fire safety inspection. This helps us know where everything is and should be located within the building. We were very impressed with the BrucePac facility and this is a great plant addition to Durant.

Presented his information on the new ISO fire rating for our community.

We are in the top 10% nationwide and top 7% in Oklahoma with our Durant fire rating of 3/3y. We will need to add a new fire substation on the west side of town in the future. This is not possible without the community and the city official’s support. I hope to be able to get to a ISO 2 rating in the future.

Chris Allen – Please explain about not having enough water in areas of our City.

Chief Joines – The addition of the new water tower at Southeastern Oklahoma State University was a big help with the water supply in the community. With an older city, you inherit a lot of issues with the older lines being one of them and they need to be updated, which we are working on accomplishing that each year in our city.

James Dunegan – stated that if you get a chance to visit the central fire station, you should do so. It was a lot of work for Chief Joines to bring us from a rating of 4 to a 3/3y, which involves writing a lot of finding grants. Chief Joines deserves a big complement from the community for this accomplishment and I appreciate the work you have done.

VIII. Presentation of Community Impact and Future Growth of Alliance Health Durant Jeff Tarrant-CEO

Tommy Kramer – We will split Jeff Tarrant’s presentation between today’s meeting and the April 12, 2016 meeting due to time constraints. The information Jeff provides is essential when we have companies contacting us about our community and local healthcare.

Jeff Tarrant – Presented information about Alliance Health and Community Health Systems. We have learned that Oklahoma requires all high school students have basic CPR training, which is a wonderful thing.

Tommy Kramer – What type of physicians are you currently recruiting?

Jeff Tarrant – We try to recruit for what is needed currently and in the future. Primary care doctors are always needed and specialties such as cardiac care and OB/GYN doctors.

IX. New Business..... Tommy Kramer

Janet Reed – The Keep Durant Clean and Green will begin on April 23rd and it will be in the afternoon. This will be a yearlong project and we need to have more companies involved. It is our duty as citizens to not only show our children but to teach them and provide the information to the schools. OG&E helped us this year by giving us a small grant for Keep Durant Clean and Green. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the community.

X. Adjournment Tommy Kramer

Janet Reed motioned for adjournment with a second from Dr. Larry Minks.
Tommy Kramer called the meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.