

DURANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

July 12, 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 Darrell Mendez

III. Roll Call Laura Voorhies

The following members were present: Curtis Armor, Billy Blackburn, Ron Boyer, Sean Burrage, Bert Davison, Bob Delveaux, Eddy Dempsey, Chris Glendening, Bryan Hallmark, Kara Hendrickson, Stewart Hoffman, Tommy Kramer, Drew Miller, Kyle McLemore, Darrell Mendez, Jeff Monroe and Janet Reed.

The following members were absent: Shaun Banner, Robert Bourne, Scott Dewald, James Dunegan, Tammye Gwin, Mike Goodwin, Jeff Hammock, Robert Holliday, Ketan Jain, Greg Massey, Fran Mickle, Larry Minks, Rick Roy and Jeff Tarrant.

The following guests were present: Dan Pennington-Press, Donnalla Miller-Interim City Manager and Jacque Wilson-City Project Manager

IV. Welcome New Member Drew Miller, Manager SE Area-ONG..... Tommy Kramer

Tommy Kramer introduced Drew Miller, Manager of the Southeast Area for Oklahoma Natural Gas as a new member.

V. Consider Approval of Minutes of the June 14, 2016 Meeting Tommy Kramer

Darrell Mendez motioned to accept with a second by Jeff Monroe. The motion carried by:

Aye: Curtis Armor, Ron Boyer, Sean Burrage, Bert Davison, Bob Delveaux, Eddy Dempsey, Chris Glendening, Bryan Hallmark, Kara Hendrickson, Stewart Hoffman, Tommy Kramer, Drew Miller, Kyle McLemore, Darrell Mendez, Jeff Monroe and Janet Reed.

Nay: None

Abstain: Billy Blackburn and Sean Burrage

VI. Present City of Durant Monthly Sales Tax Report Mayor Hoffman

Mayor Hoffman advised that there was a 1.26 change from the same month last year. This is the first time since 2010 that the sales tax has dropped, but he is confident it will raise back up.

VII. Durant Wal-Mart Supercenter Renovation Plan.....Chris Glendening

Chris Glendening advised that the building renovation work will begin the first week of August and be completed in October. The renovation will include the replacement of refrigeration, new flooring, painting and moving of a few departments.

Wal-Mart does renovation approximately every 7-8 years and this will cost an estimate of \$7-8M. The Durant store has 7,000+ customers per day and brings in approximately \$105M in annual sales.

Tommy Kramer thanked Chris Glendening and the Wal-Mart store for the support of our community and the jobs created.

VIII. Review of Durant Industrial Authority Annual Report..... Tommy Kramer

Tommy Kramer advised that everyone was given a copy of the annual report at the last meeting. He reviewed the Durant population growth, Durant sales tax growth and the Bryan County Ad Valorem tax growth.

**VIII. Presentation: Welcome To The WoW Campaign.....
..... James Dry, Director Sales & Events – Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**

James Dry presented the new WoW campaign that the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has created. He advised of the Division of Commerce fast facts, update of the new Choctaw headquarters, Choctaw affiliates, new travel plazas, automotive services, expansion at the Grant, OK casino and resort, update on the new casino/resort in Broken Bow and the new HALO loyalty program.

IV. Review of Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission March 2016 County Unemployment Tommy Kramer

Tommy Kramer reviewed the state unemployment data maps and advised the state of Oklahoma is at 4.7% unemployment as well as Bryan County being at 4.3% unemployment.

President Sean Burrage stated that the counties that have casinos have the lowest unemployment percentage, by his observation.

Tommy Kramer stated that it is wonderful to partner with the tribes and Chief Batton is one for business diversification in Southeastern Oklahoma.

Eddy Dempsey commended the Durant community for participating with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and hopes his community will do so in the future.

X. New Business..... Tommy Kramer

Tommy Kramer advised that the Durant Industrial Authority and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma partnered together in two ads, one with the Journal Record (handout) and the other

is with the Site Selection magazine. When we receive copies of the Site Selection magazine, they will be available for anyone to have a copy.

Tommy Kramer passed out a press release from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, with the support of Congressman Mark Wayne Mullins (Eddie Dempsey coordinated the meetings), Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, City of Durant and several others stating we were awarded a Federal Fastlane Highway Grant. The work will be in 2019, south of Calera for an overpass and it will connect to the new US Highway 70 bypass.

XI. Adjournment..... Tommy Kramer

Darrell Mendez motioned for adjournment with a second from Kyle McLemore.

Tommy Kramer called the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.