

**DURANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**December 12, 2016 AT 4:00 P.M.**

**Durant Industrial Authority Conference Room**

**I. Call To Order.....Tommy Kramer**

Tommy Kramer called the regular monthly Durant Economic Development Council Meeting to order.

**II. Opening Invocation ..... Janet Reed**

**III. Roll Call.....Laura Voorhies**

The following members were present: Curtis Armor, Shaun Banner, Billy Blackburn, Robert Bourne, Ron Boyer, Kara Byrd, Bob Delveaux, James Dunegan, Chris Glendening, Tammye Gwin, Bryan Hallmark, Stewart Hoffman, Robert Holliday, Darrell Mendez, Kyle McLemore, Darrell Mendez, Jeff Monroe, Janet Reed, Rick Roy and Tim Rundel

The following members were absent: President Sean Burrage, Kara Byrd, Bert Davison, Eddy Dempsey, Scott Dewald, Mike Goodwin, Jeff Hammock, Ketan Jain, Denny Koenders, Greg Massey, Fran Mickle, Drew Miller, Cody Perryman and Jeff Tarrant

The following guests were present: None

**IV. Consideration and Action of November 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes .....Tommy Kramer**

Robert Holliday motioned to accept with a second by Stewart Hoffman. The motion carried by:

Aye: Curtis Armor, Shaun Banner, Billy Blackburn, Robert Bourne, Ron Boyer, Kara Byrd, Bob Delveaux, James Dunegan, Chris Glendening, Tammye Gwin, Bryan Hallmark, Stewart Hoffman, Robert Holliday, Darrell Mendez, Kyle McLemore, Darrell Mendez, Jeff Monroe, Janet Reed, Rick Roy and Tim Rundel

Nay: None

**V. Present City of Durant Monthly Sales Tax Report ..... Mayor Stewart Hoffman**

Mayor Stewart Hoffman advised that the sales tax has increased from last month and it is in a steady growth for the year and 15.72% for November.

**VI. Update of the Cardinal Glass Building Expansion & New Furnace Installation.....**

**.....Shaun Banner-General Manager**

Tommy Kramer introduced Mr. Shaun Banner-General Manager of the Durant Cardinal Glass FG plant.

Mr. Banner showed slides of the interior and exterior of the Durant facility. Mr. Banner explained that they make the glass out of sand from Coleman, OK and 70% of their product goes to other Cardinal plants. Currently there is 35,000 square feet under roof at the Durant plant with 17,000 tons of glass in storage.

There is a Tri Mere pollution control system being installed at a cost of approximately \$13,000,000. It will remove the soot, knock and particles from the furnace and make the plant a minor source polluter.

The total renovation costs from 2016-2017 will be approximately \$60,000,000. The furnace rebuild will begin on January 5, 2017 with draining the glass. The cooling process of that glass will take approximately three days and that glass will be reused in the new furnace. The completion date is scheduled for March 29, 2017.

All the Cardinal plants are non-union and we do not layoff employees. The employees at this plant will continue to work by aiding the contractors in manual labor tasks required.

**VII. Oklahoma Employment Report for October 2016 ..... Tommy Kramer**

Tommy Kramer reviewed the U.S. Department of Labor Unemployment maps. Bryan County is the third lowest county in Eastern Oklahoma at 4.2% unemployment rate for October.

**VIII. Discuss the 2016 and New 2017 Oklahoma Legislative Agenda .....  
..... Representative Dustin Roberts**

Tommy Kramer introduces Representative Roberts to the council members.

Representative Roberts thanked the City of Durant, Durant Area Chamber of Commerce and Shaun Banner for hosting the retreat and the tour of the Cardinal Glass facility. Representative Roberts was impressed that here in Bryan County, the companies like Cardinal Glass stay and continue to grow their businesses after the tax credits and incentives have been completed.

Roberts explained that the \$1.3 billion shortfall identified what agencies in Oklahoma work and those that aren't working. One that is working is the Transportation Agency and they wanted to be part of the solution.

Roberts applauded Mr. Jon Hazell, the 2017 Teacher of the Year for his efforts and for being from Durant. We have Oklahoma education standards that will come into place that were built by Oklahomans and it will help the children begin their paths from kindergarten through to higher education and/or career tech. We will be holding education to the highest standards.

Health and nursing compact was a good thing and will allow the nurses to go across state lines with their Oklahoma license.

The Energy Fund we are working on to help when times are hard, it should be used for what it was intended.

**IX. Discuss the 2016 and New 2017 Oklahoma Legislative Agenda .....Senator Josh Brecheen**

Tommy Kramer introduced Senator Josh Brecheen to the Council members.

Senator Josh Brecheen advised that he is currently Vice Chair of Finance and is after the low hanging fruit. There is a \$90,000,000 subsidation going on and have great expectations on where it is headed. He asked for questions on tax incentives.

Janet Reed stated that Oklahoma is still losing qualified educators to Texas and other areas where they are being paid more, how can Oklahoma hold on to them?

Senator Brecheen advised the he talked with OCPA and they want to get rid of wind rights and put that towards teacher raises. We need to create at atmosphere where the teachers feel appreciated and want to stay.

Oklahoma ranks 31<sup>st</sup> as attractiveness as a state on taxes, along with highway, rail and right to work and we want the revenue to provide the raises for our educators. My goal, in addition to incentives is to simplify our tax credits to attract business to Oklahoma and not us searching for businesses to come here.

Jon Hazell stated that Durant is different in we negotiate to get small step raises for 45 years. up until this year, you also had to obtain your master’s degree within a certain amount of time but that has changed. Iowa has a great concept in they allow a great teacher to work half a day and the other half they mentor other teachers and are paid a stipend. The answers to the education questions are there to obtain within the teachers; it is just that no one has asked us.

Senator Brecheen stated that there is a summary of the eleven incentives to show what is positive and what is negative. He will be sure that Tommy receives the information to get to everyone and encourages all to read it.

**X. Presentation to the 2017 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year – Jon Hazell ..... Mayor Stewart Hoffman**

Mayor Hoffman presented Mr. Jon Hazell with a clock and advised it was an honor to have him here in Durant.

Mr. Jon Hazell thanked everyone for the clock and advised that in years

**XI. New Business .....Tommy Kramer**

Tommy Kramer advised that in the recent Site Selection magazine, the Choctaws are promoting Durant and McAlester and we appreciate their continued support of our community.

Tammye Gwin stated that she is happy to help the community and stated that Tommy does a great job in Durant.

**VIII. Adjournment.....Tommy Kramer**

Greg Massey motioned for adjournment with a second from Darrell Mendez.  
Tommy Kramer called the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.