



City of Broken Arrow

Minutes

Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority

Chairperson Debra Wimpee
Vice Chairman Johnnie Parks
Trustee Lisa Ford
Trustee Justin Green
Trustee David Pickel

City Hall
220 S 1st Street
Broken Arrow, OK
74012

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Debra Wimpee called the meeting to order at approximately 7:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

3. Consideration of Consent Agenda

- A. 25-65 Approval of the Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes of August 04, 2025**
- B. 25-1180 Acknowledgement of submittal of the July 2025 Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation's Monthly Report**
- C. 25-1179 Ratification of the Claims List Check Register Dated August 12, 2025**

MOTION: A motion was made by Johnnie Parks, seconded by Lisa Ford

Move to approve the Consent Agenda

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

4. Consideration of Items Removed from Consent Agenda - NONE

5. Public Hearings, Appeals, Presentations, Recognitions, Awards - NONE

6. General Authority Business

- A. 25-1047 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of October Best Practices Trip**

James Bell presented Item 25-1047, details on the upcoming Chamber Best Practices trip to Franklin and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, explaining that the purpose of such visits is to learn from aspirational communities, avoid costly mistakes, and gather ideas that can support Broken Arrow's intentional and sustainable growth. Past trips have yielded inspiration, such as Carmel, Indiana's influence on the Rose District.

Franklin offers lessons in downtown redevelopment, retail attraction beyond big-box stores, and adaptive reuse projects like the Factory at Franklin, which has become a vibrant hub. The trip will also include a visit to Williamson County Schools' Entrepreneurship and

Innovation Center, where students gain hands-on experience in entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, robotics, and e-sports.

Murfreesboro will showcase how relocating city hall spurred downtown revitalization beyond the central square, offering a glimpse into Broken Arrow's near-term future, while Franklin represents a longer-term vision. The visit will also highlight Middle Tennessee State University's role in the city's growth. Mr. Bell emphasized the trip's value in exploring how suburban cities can balance growth, retain family-oriented values, and support entrepreneurs within larger regional ecosystems, inviting feedback on what participants want to learn.

City Manager Michael Spurgeon, praised the upcoming best practices trip, noting past visits consistently reinforce pride in Broken Arrow while still providing valuable ideas. He commended James Bell and his team for selecting Franklin and Murfreesboro as aspirational cities that closely align with Broken Arrow's goals, predicting it could be the most impactful trip since the Overland Park visit that inspired the city's conference center and hotel discussions.

Mr. Bell confirmed the trip dates as October 27–29. He explained the goal is to engage directly with city officials and organizations that are slightly ahead of Broken Arrow in areas like downtown development and city hall planning. Trustees emphasized the importance of gathering ideas, likening it to educators borrowing best practices from multiple sources. Mr. Bell asked attendees to prepare questions in advance so their hosts in Franklin and Murfreesboro can tailor responses, noting his team is coordinating closely with local chambers of commerce and economic development groups.

7. Remarks and Inquiries by Governing Body Members - NONE

8. Remarks and Updates by City Manager and Staff - NONE

9. Executive Session - NONE

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:47 p.m.

MOTION: A motion was made by Johnnie Parks, seconded by Lisa Ford.

Move to Adjourn

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

Chairperson

Secretary