



City of Broken Arrow

City Hall
220 S 1st Street
Broken Arrow OK
74012

Minutes Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority

Chairman Craig Thurmond
Vice Chair Richard Carter
Trustee Mike Lester
Trustee Johnnie Parks
Trustee Scott Eudey

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairman Craig Thurmond called the meeting to order at approximately 7:50 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present 5 -

Scott Eudey, Johnnie Parks, Mike Lester, Richard Carter, Craig Thurmond

3. Consideration of Consent Agenda

Chairman Thurmond asked if there were any items to remove from the Consent Agenda. There being none, he asked for a motion.

MOTION: A motion was made by Johnnie Parks, seconded by Scott Eudey.

Move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 -

Scott Eudey, Johnnie Parks, Mike Lester, Richard Carter, Craig Thurmond

A. 16-956

Approval of Broken Arrow Economic Development Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2016

B. 16-830

Approval of Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority Claims List for September 06, 2016

4. Consideration of Items Removed from Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda. No action was required or taken.

5. General Authority Business

A. 16-1084

Approval and authorization to execute a five-year Pledge Agreement with the Tulsa Regional Chamber to assist in funding the Tulsa's Future III Region Economic Development plan

Russell Gale, Assistant City Manager of Administration, stated that before the Economic Authority was a five-year Pledge commitment to Tulsa's Future III. He explained that Tulsa's Future III was the next phase in an ongoing public/private regional economic development plan led by the Tulsa Regional Chamber. The strategy was to enhance the region's standing as a place for business, residents, visitors and students. The five-year action plan being presented with Tulsa's Future III was to continue to focus not only on business retention, expansion and attraction, but to focus on small business workforce attraction and quality of life issues. Mr. Gale recalled that Broken Arrow had participated since its inception of Tulsa Future in 2012, with the City committing \$20,000 each year for the first five years. The pledge for the coming five years would be \$11,750 for the first year, and \$23,500 for the remaining four years. Mr. Gale stated that staff recommended approval of the Pledge Agreement.

Chairman Thurmond requested confirmation that it was a pledge that they would vote on every year that they would fund. Mr. Gale replied that that was correct, the City Council would be approached to vote on it in that manner.

City Manager Michael Spurgeon mentioned that he was approached by Chamber officials earlier in the year regarding Broken Arrow's willingness to continue to be a part of the regional program. He noted that anytime money was given in partnership, the giver wanted to see value. Looking at the history, at one time the City had a model of economic development that focused on trying to attract business. That was a very expensive proposition requiring a lot of travelling to reach out to businesses. As he understood, in last six to ten years, the focus had been narrowed to more looking at business retention and expansion of existing businesses. The partnership being reconsidered allowed the City of Broken Arrow to be a part of the region and work with the Tulsa Regional Chamber which had the ability to pull its resources to help attract business to the City's own region. One thing that did concern him about the letter's contents, as pointed out by a couple of Council members, as well, was the question of what their focus was. A lot of letter focused on the redevelopment of downtown Tulsa and that was important, but Broken Arrow had a burgeoning downtown also. Mr. Spurgeon reported that he spoke to Tulsa Regional Chamber Chief Executive Officer Mike Neal about his concerns. Mr. Neal stated that letter should have read that they wanted to support communities like Broken Arrow, that were trying to redevelop their downtown and making investments. Mr. Spurgeon indicated that he was not comfortable recommending the full pledge amount at one time. He preferred to make the pledge, but then look at the performance each year to make sure that they had gotten some value out of the partnership. He was aware that the City partnered with the Tulsa Chamber, which allowed Broken Arrow access to their data, and this was very helpful, as talking with Wes Smithwick, President and CEO of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council. The Tulsa Chamber had worked with them, leading the initiative on aerospace marketing in trips the City had made around the country. Therefore, he thought the Pledge was important to the community.

Trustee Lester commented that he believed that the partnership amongst all the metropolitan areas was a good thing. He had submitted some comments and he maintained that FlightSafety and L3Communications being a part of the community benefitted them. He was, at any rate, a little tired of hearing about Downtown Tulsa and he saw the need for the Tulsa Regional Chamber to start talking more about the whole metropolitan area, realizing that Broken Arrow and surrounding communities were not the stepchildren of Tulsa any longer. They needed to embrace all the region. Chairman Thurmond agreed that it was important to remind them of that as they received their check and that the City wanted to see what value for their money.

Trustee Eudey cited the letter's mention of an increased investment in downtown by \$600 million, failing to mention which downtown, but he realized it was referring to Tulsa. He supported regionalism and bringing a business to Sand Springs, for example, created a ripple reaching the whole area, with the whole area benefitting from the collaboration. He would sign on for investment in the entire metro area as the concept of the Agreement. Mr. Spurgeon said that he had not been completely aware of Tulsa's private investment, but he felt the partnership worked; however, it should be worked out on an annual basis.

MOTION: A motion was made by Scott Eudey, seconded by Mike Lester.

Move to approve the Pledge Agreement and authorize its execution

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 -

Scott Eudey, Johnnie Parks, Mike Lester, Richard Carter, Craig Thurmond

6. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:59 p.m.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mike Lester, seconded by Johnnie Parks.

Move to adjourn

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Scott Eudey, Johnnie Parks, Mike Lester, Richard Carter, Craig Thurmond

Attest:

Chairman

Secretary