



# 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, December 16, 2025**

**Council Chambers**

---

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairperson Debra Wimpee called the meeting to order at 7:58 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

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

#### 3. Consideration of Consent Agenda

- A. 25-73 Approval of the Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes of December 02, 2025**
- B. 25-1723 Acknowledgement of Broken Arrow City Council's December 2, 2025, approval of BAZ 002505 2025 (Rezoning), Arrow Forge 99.52 acres, AG (Agricultural) to IL (Industrial Light), located one half mile north of Tucson Street (121st Street), located on the south side of Florence Street (111th Street) and ¼ mile east of Olive Avenue (129th East Avenue)**
- C. 25-1760 Acknowledgement of submittal of the November 2025 Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation's Monthly Report**
- D. 25-1745 Ratification of the Claims List Check Register Dated December 08, 2025**

MOTION: A motion was made by Johnnie Parks, seconded by David Pickel

**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

- A. 25-1569 Presentation, discussion, and possible acceptance of the April-September 2025 Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation Biannual Report**

James Bell, CEO of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation, presented Item 25-1569, a biannual update on the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation's work from April through September 2025, highlighting strong momentum in business retention, attraction, workforce development, and strategic initiatives. The EDC, operating as a public-private partnership with the City, schools, and Chamber, is actively managing nearly \$100 million in capital investment from existing businesses, creating

more than 100 above-average-wage jobs, while also working with 13 prospective companies representing up to 900 jobs and \$1.3 billion in potential investment. The report outlined major expansions and relocations, a robust and active project pipeline focused on aerospace and advanced manufacturing, and significant workforce engagement through job seekers, career fairs, and student outreach. Additional progress included entrepreneurship support, marketing and talent initiatives, and advancement of the ArrowForge Innovation District, with CSI Aerospace announced as its first tenant. The update concluded by emphasizing strong regional advocacy, award-winning research and marketing efforts, and a development pipeline that positions Broken Arrow for sustained short- and long-term economic growth.

During the discussion of the EDC update, council members praised data showing that Broken Arrow ranks among much larger cities for online traffic, calling it an impressive achievement. City Manager Spurgeon commended the EDC team for its visibility, networking, and relationship-building efforts that promote Broken Arrow and asked for clarification on the use of non-disclosure agreements in economic development. Mr. Bell explained that NDAs are common because companies often need confidentiality during site selection to address employee concerns, competitive risks, or morale issues, and that, in many cases, initial contact occurs through site consultants before the company's identity is known. Mr. Spurgeon emphasized that NDAs do not prevent the Council from receiving complete information when decisions are required, notably when incentives are involved. Mr. Bell confirmed that the city always has complete details before any agreement or assistance is considered, ensuring Council decisions are fully informed.

**B. 25-1750 Presentation and discussion of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce 2025 Best Practices trip to Franklin and Murfreesboro, TN**

James Bell, CEO of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation, presented Item 25-1750. He thanked Council and staff for their strong participation in the Chamber's Best Practices trip. He emphasized that the purpose was not civic tourism but learning from comparable communities to inform Broken Arrow's future decisions. Visits to Franklin and Murfreesboro reinforced that Broken Arrow is on the right trajectory, particularly with downtown planning, City Hall strategy, workforce and education alignment, and long-term civic thinking. Key takeaways included the importance of integrating civic facilities as catalysts for district growth, using plain-language communication and digital tools to build public trust, supporting mixed-use density to strengthen downtowns, and treating education as a core economic driver closely aligned with workforce and industry. The trip highlighted opportunities to deepen partnerships among the city, schools, higher education, industry, and the Chamber, as well as to advance initiatives like ArrowForge and long-range planning assets. Mr. Bell noted that the shared experience strengthened leadership relationships, feedback called for broader participation and more focus on workforce and housing, and the effort is now moving from learning to execution through convenings, partnerships, and concrete next steps.

**6. General Authority Business - NONE**

**7. Remarks and Inquiries by Governing Body Members**

Councilor Ford commended James Bell for making The Journal Record's Power List as one of the 50 Most Influential Oklahomans for 2025, expressing that it was impressive since he recently moved to Oklahoma. Mayor Wimpee closed by saying it's the last meeting for this year, and wishing everybody a Merry Christmas.

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

**9. Executive Session - NONE**

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:21 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