



City of Broken Arrow

Minutes Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority

City Hall
220 S 1st Street
Broken Arrow OK
74012

Chairperson Craig Thurmond
Vice Chair Scott Eudey
Trustee Johnnie Parks
Trustee Debra Wimpee
Trustee Christi Gillespie

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Craig Thurmond called the meeting to order at approximately 8:29 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Christi Gillespie, Debra Wimpee, Johnnie Parks, Scott Eudey, Craig Thurmond

3. Consideration of Consent Agenda

- A. 20-56 Approval of the Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2020**
- B. 20-456 Approval of and authorization to execute Budget Amendment Number 10 for Fiscal Year 2020**

Chairperson Thurmond asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. There were none.

MOTION: A motion was made by Scott Eudey, seconded by Debra Wimpee.

Move to approve the Consent Agenda

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Christi Gillespie, Debra Wimpee, Johnnie Parks, Scott Eudey, Craig Thurmond

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. 20-455 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of and authorization to execute a Second Amended Economic Development Agreement between the Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority, an Oklahoma Public Trust and the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation**
Economic Development Coordinator Mr. Norm Stephens reported there was a long discussion this evening regarding BA Rising and the effects of COVID-19 on the Broken Arrow economy. He stated due to this, Jennifer Conway, President and CEO of the Chamber and EDC, visited with the City Manager and himself regarding a Microgrant Program which Ms. Conway wished to fund with some Chamber monies and some EDC monies to assist small businesses in Broken Arrow which suffered as a result of COVID-19. He stated Ms. Conway and the BAEDC was requesting a one-time amount of \$100,000 dollars in additional funding from BAEDA for the purposes of the Microgrant Program. He stated this Program was designed to offer a lifeline to local small businesses which would result in greater continuity of business operations and sustain business viability during the application period for State and Federal relief programs and incentives, helping such small businesses to survive the closing of the City's economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted there was a

complete list of BA Rising criteria which must be met by businesses to qualify for a Microgrant; this criteria included: businesses must employ less than 20 full time employees, businesses must have exhausted all efforts to obtain funding from SBA programs and the CARES Act, and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan or Paycheck Protection provision. He stated the Microgrant Program would restrict businesses which prospered or benefitted from the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted the other criteria were available for review in the information packet. He indicated the grants would be made in the form of one lump sum distribution for the recipients and the maximum grant amount was \$5,000 dollars. He stated the Chairman of the Board of the EDC was in the process of putting together the Committee which would review the applications.

Mr. Stephens reported in addition, the BAEDC was requesting a one-time payment in the amount of \$5,000 dollars for the design and installation of a new Economic Development website for the EDC. He stated the site would be interactive, allowing for creating demographic information for the City, as well as more accurately reflecting Broken Arrow's complete labor availability, education and training resources, interactive maps, and available sites for developing existing facilities, and opportunities. He stated up to this point the EDC did not have its own stand-alone website. He noted the two requests totaled \$105,000 dollars.

City Manager Spurgeon stated he believed this was an eligible expense for which Broken Arrow could submit for reimbursement. He indicated he felt it was a perfect way to help the nonessential businesses in need of assistance with reopening.

Council Member Wimpee agreed the Microgrant Program was an excellent way to assist nonessential businesses in need.

President and CEO of the Chamber and EDC, Jennifer Conway, stated this Program was true to the mission of the BA Rising Task Force which was to ensure economic recovery. She stated this Program was set up with a scoring metric based on the guidelines which would be weighted and fair. She discussed the application evaluation process and scoring metric noting Staff would not participate in the evaluation and scoring process. She discussed what these funds might be used for by the small nonessential businesses such as rent and food costs. She discussed the businesses which would qualify for this Program. She noted the goal was, once the applications were received, to evaluate said applications and distribute funds within one week.

Vice Mayor Eudey stated anyone who felt this was a form of corporate welfare was mistaken. He noted many businesses felt as if they were starting from scratch at this point and it was a wonderful thing if the City and EDC were able to save a business from bankruptcy by providing a few thousand dollars in grant money. He noted there was a palpable fear of survival in the small business community and he felt it was a small price to pay to be able to help these small businesses survive.

Ms. Conway noted 100% of the \$100,000 dollars would be distributed to small businesses; if any portion were not distributed to small businesses it would be returned to the City.

Council Member Parks stated the lifeblood of the City was its businesses, small and large. He asked City Manager Spurgeon from where the funds for this Program were originating.

City Manager Spurgeon responded every year Broken Arrow allocated funds for Economic Development purposes in the Budget to support Economic Development Agreements, to support the EDC, etc. He stated he could think of nothing more appropriate for Economic Development Funds than to support Broken Arrow businesses in reopening and restarting the Broken Arrow economy.

Council Member Parks thanked Ms. Conway and the Chamber and the EDC for creating this Program to assist these businesses.

Ms. Conway noted when she was considering this Microgrant Program she was just hoping for \$20,000 dollars from the City; the generosity of Broken Arrow showed the heart of the City and the City Council for the business community.

Council Member Wimpee thanked Ms. Conway, the BA Rising Task Force, Norm Stephens, and all who were working to assist Broken Arrow businesses in reopening the Broken Arrow economy.

Council Member Gillespie, Mayor Thurmond, and Vice Mayor Eudey conveyed their thanks as well.

MOTION: A motion was made by Scott Eudey, seconded by Debra Wimpee.

Move to approve and authorize execution of a Second Amended Economic Development Agreement between the Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority, an Oklahoma Public Trust and the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Christi Gillespie, Debra Wimpee, Johnnie Parks, Scott Eudey, Craig Thurmond

- B. 20-470 **Consideration, discussion, and possible approval of and authorization to execute an Economic Development Agreement between the City of Broken Arrow and East Kenosha Development, LLC for AutoZone Auto Parts to be located near 20th and Kenosha Street in Broken Arrow**

Mr. Norm Stephens reported this was the same Item he presented during the City Council Meeting. He noted he would be happy to answer any additional questions; there were none.

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

Move to approve and authorize execution of an Economic Development Agreement between the City of Broken Arrow and East Kenosha Development, LLC for AutoZone Auto Parts to be located near 20th and Kenosha Street in Broken Arrow

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Christi Gillespie, Debra Wimpee, Johnnie Parks, Scott Eudey, Craig Thurmond

6. Remarks and Updates by City Manager and Staff

There were no remarks or updates by City Manager or Staff.

7. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

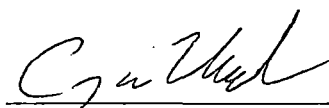
The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42 p.m.

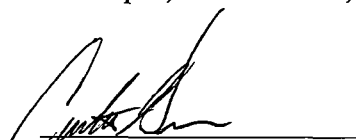
MOTION: A motion was made by Debra Wimpee, seconded by Christi Gillespie.

Move to adjourn

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Christi Gillespie, Debra Wimpee, Johnnie Parks, Scott Eudey, Craig Thurmond


Chairperson


Secretary

