



## **January 2016 Minutes**

Joint Economic Development Council Meeting  
Wednesday, January 20, 2016  
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
The Chamber Conference room  
The Chamber Office

Members in Attendance: **Mike Orrozco, Rebecca Gaston, Melinda Henderson, Cal Karlin, Barack Matite** (representing Eudora), **Larry McElwain, GR Underwood** (representing the BTBC), **Jason Edmonds**

Ex Officio: **Bonnie Lowe, Craig Weinaug**

Also in Attendance: **Britt Crum-Cano, Brady Pollington and Hugh Carter**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Larry McElwain.

### Review and consideration of approval of December 2015 minutes

Melinda requested amending the minutes to reflect the idea of modifying the City's annual report on Economic Development to include location and zip codes of employees working for companies receiving incentives. Melinda motioned, Cal seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### ED Budget Discussion – funding application - Brady Pollington

- Leslie asked about percent time spent on ED vs. Chamber activities and real estate development. Bonnie spoke to the amount of time and expense spend on ED vs Chamber activities.
- Larry also clarified about ED efforts regarding real estate development.
- Craig spoke about housing development as it relates to affordable housing and why it matters to the community.
- Melinda spoke about housing and incentives regarding incentivized businesses paying wages that will make housing affordable.
- Melinda spoke to the budget and if one would be provided at the next meeting.
- Bonnie verified that a budget would be provided at the next meeting.
- Brady reminded the group that this discussion was for identifying areas the JEDC would like to have more or less influence on ED budget request.
- Soden referenced changes to the percent time spent on ED vs Chamber.
- Brady said that the 2017 budget request would be status quo to the City and County.

- Craig referred to State changes affecting local funding and revealed gradual cuts year over year may be necessary.
- Larry shared that the ED budget typically comes in thirds from the City, County, and private dollars.
- Larry also shared that the EDC was initiating a feasibility study for another economic development capital campaign.
- Melinda asked for clarification of Section 4 items 4 and 6 on the city funding application.
- Cal said section 4 item 6 should reflect the workforce for the community instead of the region.

### ED incentives discussion - Brady Pollington

- Rebekah asked about how incentives are spread between Business Retention, Entrepreneurship, and recruitment.
- Britt spoke about the incentives available. Large incentives are for large companies. Other support programs include infrastructure, rent subsidies, or grants. They are typically shorter term. Lawrence does not have a pool of dollars like Topeka and their sales tax so smaller incentives typically come out of “our pockets”.
- Craig spoke about the BTBC and the indirect support provided by the community to the BTBC to make more competitive rent rates and how that indirectly acts as an incentive. The subsidy offers the opportunity for the BTBC to be more competitive in attracting startups.
- Craig also mentioned the City’s ED report provides the best review of incentives and their uses. He also mentioned that the community has a new City Commission and identified that new incentive policy discussion is happening and there will be benefits of this process.
- Craig advised that this type of review should happen every few years.
- Craig asked if the City staff is providing a list of ED incentive issues the City Commission wants to focus on.
- Britt said they are building a list.
- Craig recommended that the Chamber ask the City for a specific list of issues for the JEDC to discuss or take a position on or ask the City what the Commission wants the JEDC to take a position on.
- Melinda asked about future actions from the ED study session.
- Britt mentioned the City Manager sent a memo to the commission requesting feedback on direction.
- Melinda referred to Sunlight and the waiver they received for incentives because they did not meet the minimum incentive requirements.
- Melinda said that focus on small businesses needs to remain part of the discussion.
- Jason Edmonds thought it would be good to know how we compare to other communities regarding incentives.

### Other/New Business - Larry McElwain

- None was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.