



## **July 11, 2016 Minutes**

Joint Economic Development Council Meeting

Monday, July 11, 2016

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

The Chamber Conference room

The Chamber Office

Members in Attendance: **Melinda Henderson, Larry McElwain, Cal Karlin, Jason Edmonds, Derek Felch, Lisa Larsen**

Ex Officio: **Bonnie Lowe, Craig Weinaug, Barack Matite, LaVerne Epp, Tom Markus**

Also in Attendance: **Britt Crum-Cano, Lindsey Slater, Adam Handshy, Leslie Herring, two members of the public**

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Larry McElwain.

### Review and consideration of approval of June 6, 2016 minutes

*Cal Karlin moved and Jason Edmonds seconded to approve the June 6, 2016, minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

### Discussion and finalization of proposed incentive policy changes

#### *Discussion of incentive comparison*

- Britt has looked at the Big Eight cities and what they do in regards to incentives.
- Britt says there are quite a few differences between states and each community has different challenges and economic climates, so the way incentives are done are completely different.
- Britt says the biggest difference between Lawrence and Manhattan is that Manhattan has a dedicated fund for economic development through a tax. The IRB and tax abatements there are similar to Lawrence.
- Some cities don't do much at all and instead rely on their states to do their programs. It's difficult to make direct comparisons.
- Of all the communities Britt has researched, Manhattan was the only other community that had an affordable housing provision for IRBs.

#### *Discussion of incentive policy recommendation*

- The suggestion was made to soften the language of the recommendation that was written. Multiple members discussed recommending the policy remains flexible.

- The recommendation will be tweaked to have a more positive tone and stressing a policy that is flexible and nimble.

#### Discuss how to deliver the position statement

- The statement will come from Larry, the chair of the group. The JEDC has a public process, so reporters would have access to the recommendation.

#### EDC Campaign report

- The EDC is working on a campaign for private investments.

#### EDC business activity update

- Staff has been busy with ED projects.
- The EDC reports at least monthly to the city and county commissions and leadership with all aspects of ED, like recruitment and retention.

#### Other Business/Questions

- Melinda suggests that after the City budget is complete, it would be helpful to have a community conversation at some point about how we do economic development.
- Melinda would like to discuss the 2015 Economic Development report for future reports. She's interested in discussing the option of using the ZIP codes of employers who work for companies getting incentives. Britt says that would have to be included in the performance agreement to be required, otherwise it would be voluntary.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.