

Lawton Economic Development Corporation

Board Meeting Minutes

Cameron University, Sarkeys Conference Room 207
2800 W Gore Blvd • Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
August 13th, 2018 @ 4:00pm

Members Present: Ron Nance, Paul Ellwanger, Barry Ezerski, Arthur Patrick, Jennifer Ellis, Phil Kennedy, Clarence Fortney, Albert Johnson Jr., Mayor Fred Fitch, Dr. John McArthur

Members Absent: Joe Gallagher, Jerry Ihler, and Jamie Southerland

Guests: Keith Bridges and Tim Hushbeck

Call to Order/Roll Call

I. Introduction of Guests

II. Consider approval of July 9th, 2018 Minutes

ACTION: Barry Ezerski moved to approve the July 9th, 2018 Minutes; Ron Nance seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Consider approval of June 2018 Financials

ACTION: Mayor Fred Fitch moved to approve June 2018 financials; Clarence Fortney seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. Reports:

President's Report

RFP Chart- We started the new fiscal year of 2018-2019 with 2 new self-generated leads. Neither of the leads are manufacturing, nor require rail. Project Crypto has continued advancing.

Upcoming Events- Mr. Cooksey attended the SEDC in Mobile, AL. This conference covers Southeast Oklahoma and Texas, to as far North as North Carolina. Main speaker was Daron Roberts who works for UT. Mr. Cooksey also attended the Governor's Retreat, where upcoming conferences and tradeshow were discussed. Next week is the Southwest Alliance Conference.

Millennial Workforce- Mr. Cooksey saw very informative slides on the workforce that he wanted to share with the Board. There was much talk on the current changes in the workforce. The current workforce thinks different, and focus is different.

Chairman's Report

Governance & Bylaws Committee Update – Clarence informed the Board that a meeting has been scheduled with Sylvia Burgess, on July 27th. Listed the 5 things that need to be added (amended) into the current bylaws. Once the changes have been made, the Board has 60 days to approve them. She can draft them in and have them ready by September's Board meeting so the Board can have their first look then.

Partner Updates

Dr. John McArthur: School starts on the 20th. Over 3 million in financial assistance and grants hit student accounts this week. Tuition has been paid from that. This is the first distribution of funds. Should see an influx in the economy. McMahon Foundation has provided lots of support. Colleagues have been hired to have them take up the issues here in Lawton, and see what needs to be done. Albert has done a great job of taking them out. Feasible studies have been done on the environment and number of agricultural center pivots,



looking for pipeline leaks. Also working on a 2-year program for engineering, where two years would be done local, and then students would go to OU or OSU to finish. Looking to see if Cameron is ready to take the next step in having an engineering B.A. program.

Mayor Fred Fitch: A piece was done on Economic Development in the newspaper. Jerry and the Mayor have discussed redistributing that money. CIP was originally put in place for a water project. There has been talk about using that money for Economic Development. Voting for this will take place in January. Funding needs to be managed correctly. It is important we move on fixing the infrastructure quickly, as Ft. Sill may take the remainder of gas left. The cost of getting the 480 and 320 ready has been discussed.

Paul Ellwanger: Two weeks ago, CCIDA approved the purchase of the 320 Acres. Cost, \$1.280 million. This will take about half of the funds available. CCIDA receives funds from the city. This expires in 2020 and will need to be re-voted on then.

Albert Johnson Jr.: Ware programming: Ware & See will be in October. Interesting fact, while at Breakfast Before Business, at St. Mary's School, we learned they have the best Robotics team in the state.

Clarence Fortney: School started today. Friday lighting struck a transformer. Repairs needed to be done immediately. Community came together to get it working 95% in 40 hours. Before the firefighters left, contractors were already on site, ready to help. PSO showed up, and with help of the community, school is in great shape. One thing that is being done with Goodyear, is that Welding Mechanics, pre-org, and Farm-Ag, are hiring kids right out of high school, employing them full-time. These kids spend two days with GPTC, one day at Goodyear, for two years. Getting them ready for their entrance exam, and they have been scoring well-above average. Thank you to Arthur Patrick for being on the GPTC board, as they awarded raises. This will help move things forward. New Campus Director starts tomorrow. Also, McMahon Foundation started the elementary level education at St. Mary's.

VI. Business:

A. Consider approval the monthly activity Report.

ACTION: Clarence Fortney moved to approve the monthly activity report; Ron Nance seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Consider approval of convening into Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. **The purchase or appraisal of real property as allowed by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act Laws 1977, c. 214, § 1, eff. October 1, 1977; 25 O.S. 307.B.3**
2. **Economic Development as allowed by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act Laws 1977, c. 214 § 1, eff. Oct. 1, 1977; 25 O.S. 307.C.10**

ACTION: Mayor Fred Fitch moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters referenced above; Arthur Patrick seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

No action was taken in Executive Session; the meeting returned to Open Session.

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjourn

ACTION: Arthur Patrick moved to approve adjourning the meeting; Mayor Fred Fitch seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

