

Lawton Economic Development Corporation Board Meeting Minutes

Cameron University, Sarkeys Conference Room 207
2800 W Gore Blvd • Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
May 14th, 2018 @ 4:00pm

Members Present: Ron Nance, Paul Ellwanger, Barry Ezerski, Albert Johnson Jr., Arthur Patrick, Jerry Ihler, Mark Brace, Clarence Fortney, Phil Kennedy

Members Absent: Jamie Southerland, Dr. John McArthur, Mayor Fred Fitch, and Joe Gallagher

Guests: Tim Hushbeck, Keith Bridges, Steve, Lee Baxter, Amy Ewing-Holmstrom

Call to Order/Roll Call

I. Introduction of Guests

II. Consider approval of April 09th, 2018 Minutes

ACTION: Barry Ezerski moved to approve the April 09th, 2018 Minutes; Ron Nance seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Consider approval of March 2018 Financials

ACTION: Arthur Patrick moved to approve March 2018 financials; Barry Ezerski seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. Reports:

President's Report

Annual Luncheon– Mr. Cooksey thanked everyone for their support. He announced that there was over 200 attendees, and that LEDC would make a profit of close to \$9,000.

New Jobs- Mr. Cooksey announced 29 new jobs for the month of April. Tech Masters is adding 26 new jobs ranging from \$50,000-\$100,000 in salary. Cosmetic Specialty Labs is adding three new jobs.

MRO Aviation Event – Mr. Cooksey attended the MRO convention last month. Many great prospects were made out of this event.

RFP Chart-Two new projects added on the chart for the month of April. Project “Ice” and Project “Rodeo.” A big project was received on May 1st, Project “Eagle,” and will be reported on next meeting.

Launch Lawton- The date for Launch Lawton has been changed to June 18th. Details will be sent out before the end of the month.

Chairman's Report

Board Appointments- Five individuals will be new board appointees. A committee will meet before the next Board Meeting. Still seeking an incoming Chairman.

Officer Elections- Elections will be held at the next board meeting.

Budget- The budget will be brought to the next board meeting for approval. We will discuss how the budget will be spent.



Partner Updates

Albert Johnson Jr.- Cameron University did something new during graduation last week. There was a toast held for prior graduates, Master's Graduates, and graduates. There were attendees that had graduated 25 years ago. The 7pm graduation ceremony closed with fireworks. Judge Tayloe was the guest speaker. The Lawton Fort Sill Chamber has extended an offer to Brenda Spencer-Ragland, to be the new President of the Chamber. The Ware District is moving forward great. The intent is to grow business in the downtown part of Lawton. The name for this area will be "Ware Lawton Blooms." We continue to work with businesses asking them to actively participate.

Jerry Ihler- City is working on balancing their budget to move forward with the fiscal year. Worked through budget cuts, total of 11 full-time employees let go. Water revenue, \$1.8 million down. 2.7% CPI has been put in place, you may see a dollar and change increase on your bill.

Clarence Fortney- It was the last day of school for the 1st school district. Gary Tyler is retiring and will be replaced by principle from Snyder High School. Currently working through the budget as well.

Paul Ellwanger- Dr. Tom made the presentation on Infrastructure. Interval meetings on that will be held to decide what direction needs to be taken.

VI. Business:

A. Consider approval the monthly activity Report.

ACTION: Clarence Fortney moved to approve the monthly activity report; Mark Brace 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: Jerry Ihler moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters referenced above; Paul Ellwanger seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

VII. New Business

Albert Johnson Jr.- Fires Domain Banquet was a success. Nate Slate did a great job getting Dr. Johnson here as well as AM General to be the main sponsor. The goal is to do every year to close out the Fires Conference Week.

VIII. Adjourn

ACTION: Ron Nance moved to approve adjourning the meeting; Clarence Fortney seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

