

**MINUTES  
PRYOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2022  
12:00 P.M.**

THE PRYOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST AUTHORITY MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 12 NORTH ROWE STREET, PRYOR, OKLAHOMA AT THE ABOVE DATE AND TIME.

TRUSTEES: \*\*FRED SORDAHL, ARIANNA DERR, DARRELL MOORE, DON BERGER, SCOTT MILLER, ADAM ANDERSON, LARRY WILLIAMS

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES: JARED CRISP - MUNICIPAL UTILITY BOARD GENERAL MANAGER, LARRY LEES - MAYOR

**1. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - MR. SORDAHL.**

The meeting was called to order by Fred Sordahl at 12:00 p.m. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Arianna Derr. Members present: Sordahl, Derr, Moore, Berger, Miller, Anderson. Members absent: Williams.

Others in attendance: Mayor Lees, Jared Crisp, Kim Ritchie, Barbara Hawkins, Jennie LaFave, Meredith Olsen, Chris Gonthier, Terry Aylward.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.**

Motion was made by Moore, second by Miller to approve minutes from the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting. Voting yes: Sordahl, Derr, Moore, Berger, Miller, Anderson. Voting no: none.

**3. PETITIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE.**

There were no petitions.

**4. REPORT FROM PRYOR AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT, BARBARA HAWKINS.**

Hawkins shared a number of activities that are taking place. She stated that they are crazy busy right now. This year's Forum Luncheons have been successful and have had 120 - 130 people in attendance. The April 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative Breakfast went well and had 70 - 80 people in attendance. The April 6<sup>th</sup> Jefferson Highway meeting had around 130 people in attendance and approximately 20 small towns were represented. In addition to the highway discussion, they also talked about ways to bring tourism to these small towns.

She stated that on February 17<sup>th</sup>, they co-sponsored a Business-After-Hours event with MidAmerica Industrial Park. The turnout was not what they would have liked, but they will try again in the future.

Hawkins also reported that the Chamber Board of Directors meets every month, and they are already having discussions regarding Rocklahoma and Born & Raised events, as well as the trails project. She reported that they have a lot of walk-ins to the office asking questions about the city. She stated they have several new businesses starting, with ribbon cuttings for each of them. They are looking into agritourism, which includes the picking farms and butcher shops. They also want to create Family Passports, where children can mark off places they visit in the area. There is another project in the works that involves technology. She stated that this will include digital infrastructure and co-workspaces.

Moore asked Barbara her thoughts on the TIF. She stated that, in her opinion, there is no dramatic down-side to it. The Chamber has not taken an official stance.

## **5. DISCUSSION REGARDING PARKING IN THE DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR.**

See Item 6.

### **6. REPORT FROM PRYOR MAIN STREET DIRECTOR, JENNIE LAFAVE.**

LaFave reported that, like the Chamber, they are crazy busy right now. She stated that they were able to participate in Capitol Day and show off their Streetscape Plan. They received verbal support, as well. She spoke with Kyle Stevens, who is very knowledgeable and involved with TAP Grants, and he told her he would look at our application personally.

She reported that they held a downtown clean-up event last Saturday, and it went very well. This was in connection to the Great American Clean-up. Mayor, Thunderbird, Boy Scouts and several others participated.

LaFave stated that they are working with Jack Hardy on the memorial monument for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the devastating tornado. This event will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. on the library property.

She also reported that on April 21<sup>st</sup>, Main Street's biggest even of the year will take place, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Kickoff Carnival. It will be even bigger than last year. They will be planting the pink petunias downtown before very long, as well.

Regarding Item a. Status of Crosswalks:

Buddy Glenn is still waiting on back-ordered paint, and he stated that this paint dries best in the heat of summer, so it will be a while longer before these are done.

Regarding Item b. Parking in downtown corridor- education initiative for downtown merchants:

They have had major feedback from the merchants about parking in the alleyways. They do not want to do this, because the alleyways are dirty. Since their big clean-up event last Saturday, the alleyways look much better.

LaFave and Olsen walked the downtown businesses to their designated parking areas and timed them to give the merchants a better idea of walking distance. Anderson suggested signage asking people to be considerate of shoppers. LaFave stated that this will be covered in the Streetscape Plan. Derr recommended having a QR Code on the signs that show parking areas.

Crisp stated that electric charging stations need to be considered, as well.

### **7. UPDATE REGARDING CHEROKEE NATION ARPA FUNDS AND NEEDS OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND EDTA SERVING AS INFORMATION-GATHERING ENTITY FOR PRESENTATION TO CHEROKEE NATION.**

Derr provided an update regarding Cherokee Nation ARPA funds and needs of local organizations and EDTA serving as information-gathering entity for presentation to Cherokee Nation. She showed a spreadsheet she will use to keep track of all the entities requesting help through the Nation. She stated that we need to consider this a partnership with Cherokee Nation, more than just for ARPA funds.

She stated that these proposed projects are very expensive projects. Each will have to be taken bite-by-bite. They will come from different buckets within the Cherokee Nation and the State will require a support letter for each project.

Derr recommended getting with each team and getting a list of their bite-sized dreams. Anderson stated that he wants the EDTA to work with the teams to get their presentations together. Derr stated that some of these projects will be tax-generating projects and should take precedence. Crisp recommended they make Hold-Harmless Agreements with each team, as well.

Derr then asked if they could make a plan of action.

The following was agreed upon:

- Anderson will contact soccer and football
- Derr will contact recreation and trails
- Crisp will contact baseball
- Mayor will contact softball

#### **8. DISCUSSION REGARDING TIMEFRAME AND GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING ADDITIONS TO AGENDAS.**

No action. Mayor provided an example ordinance that was created for City Council, stating that three councilors need to agree on an item and give 60 hours' notice in order to have it on the agenda. It was agreed that any of the trustees can request an item be placed on EDTA agenda, but they all agreed that noon the Thursday before the meeting should be the deadline. It was also agreed that requests should be sent to Sordahl or Mayor.

#### **9. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE EDTA - PATH AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.**

Sordahl stated again that he does not know what the EDTA is supposed to be doing. We need to do more than hear reports each month. He wants to know what they can do to help the Chamber and Main Street. What kind of funds do we have to work with? How are we using these funds? Are there grants available?

Mayor stated that the Main Street portion of the bond is available for use in the downtown corridor, and there are funds provided by City Council for EDTA use. It was agreed to begin having financial statements at each EDTA meeting going forward. Moore suggested having a list of funding sources and a grant-request form or low-interest loan for downtown businesses to use to do repairs and updates on their buildings. LaFave mentioned that a number of buildings need tin removed, and until that is done, there is no way of knowing what is under it, which can be costly.

Sordahl stated that for 2½ years the Trust has done nothing. He mentioned the property on the North end of town and that nothing has been done with it since they discussed it at the beginning of the EDTA. Mayor corrected him by stating that floodplain management has been taking place on that land. Phase I is completed and Phase II is being bid. Mayor also stated that the EDTA has provided an avenue for sale of property, and for development downtown.

Sordahl also pointed out that City Council is having a Special Meeting tonight regarding Economic Development, and nothing has come to EDTA first. Mayor simply replied, "Stay tuned." Moore requested that all trustees refresh themselves on the Indenture. Mrs. Coats will send it to everyone this afternoon. Coats will also see that financial reports are in the packets each month.

#### **10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES - MAYOR LEES, MUB GM JARED CRISP.**

Mayor stated that a great deal is going on, and he talks with Rickey Hayes almost daily. Many things are confidential until a deal is made, which makes things tricky.

Crisp stated there is a lot going on, including utilizing 50% of the ARPA funds for a new lift station on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. He is working with Grand Gateway for more funding for this project.

#### **11. UNFORESEEABLE BUSINESS.**

There was no unforeseeable business.

**12. ADJOURN.**

Motion was made by Moore, second by Derr to adjourn at 1:40 pm. All voted yes.