



Economic Development Advisory Committee

Minutes of the August 14, 2013 meeting

10 a.m., City Hall Conference Room

Committee members present: Kyle Fleming, Brad Hodson, Jim Hoskins, Shane Kannarr, Richard Oler and Mark Werner

Others present: Blake Benson, Daron Hall, Henry Menghini and Crawford County Convention & Visitors Bureau Director B.J. Harris

Additions to the agenda: None

Consent calendar: Chairman Kannarr asked for discussion regarding the minutes from the July 10 regular meeting and the August 2, 2013 special meeting. There was none.

MOTION: Kannarr asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Werner so moved. Motion seconded by Oler. All carried, motion approved.

New business:

Ron & Dora Ware forgivable loan: Benson presented the Ron and Dora Ware loan for forgiveness consideration. The \$25,000 loan was approved by the city commission on May 26, 2012, and called for the Wares to the following annual benchmarks required through 2017 in order to qualify for loan forgiveness:

*The Wares must invest at least \$101,324 of their own funds in the project

*The Wares must enter into and complete a five-year lease agreement with Volvo Construction Equipment Rents, Inc.

The EDAC reviewed information confirming the Wares had satisfied these requirements.

MOTION: Hodson motioned to forgive this year's scheduled payment on the Ron and Dora Ware loan. Fleming seconded. Motion carried, motion approved.

Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas forgivable loan: Benson presented the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHCSEK) loan for forgiveness consideration. The \$460,517 loan was approved on July 9, 2013, and called for the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas to employ at least 100 full-time employees by August 1, 2013, to have this year's loan payment forgiven. The EDAC reviewed information confirming that the CHCSEK had satisfied this requirement.

MOTION: Oler motioned to forgive this year's scheduled payment on the CHCSEK loan. Hoskins seconded. Motion carried, motion approved.

Hotel feasibility study: The EDAC spent a considerable amount of time interviewing two consultants that have proposed to conduct a hotel feasibility study for the City of Pittsburg. The first consultant, Mark Eble with PKF Consulting, was interviewed via conference call. The PKF bid was for \$12,000, not counting anticipated out-of-pocket expenses.

The second consultant interviewed was Jeff Green Partners/Hoffman Strategies. Jeff Green was interviewed via conference call and Jerry Hoffman attended the EDAC meeting in person. Green Partners/Hoffman Strategies proposed conducting the study for \$32,000 inclusive of all out-of-pocket expenses.

Following both interviews, the EDAC expressed a desire to include a retail feasibility study as well and directed Blake to have both consultants revise their bids. There was additional general discussion regarding both proposals.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake Benson