

**GROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017
4:00 PM
MINUTES**

The Grove Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 4:00 PM with Chairman Ron Lay presiding. Members present were Keith Martin and Mike Lewandowski. Members Ivan Devitt and David Adzigan was absent. Also present was General Manager, Bill Keefer; City Treasurer, Lisa Allred and City Clerk, Bonnie Buzzard. Assistant General Manager, Debbie Bottoroff was absent.

Martin made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Lewandowski. AYE: Martin, Lewandowski and Lay. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Lewandowski made the motion to approve the purchase order register. Seconded by Martin. AYE: Martin, Lewandowski and Lay. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Lay opened the floor for discussion with respect of a Sales Tax Incentive Agreement from DarLynn Embroidery. Keefer reported that the Board is familiar with the process of these agreement(s). However, this agreement is somewhat different because this existing business has been established for approximately 5 years, and has already established a history of "Net Tax" paid to the State of Oklahoma. Therefore looking back at their history for this business the Sales Tax Incentive entitles this existing business to receive a reimbursement of 50% of the net tax paid in excess of \$962.66 (the average of the three previous year's sales tax paid). Keefer mentioned that the reimbursement is paid quarterly within thirty days of the end of the quarter. Business Owners, James and Loretta McPherson was present to entertain questions, comments and concerns from the Board and Staff. Lewandowski made the motion to approve the Sales Tax Incentive agreement from DarLynn Embroidery as presented and discussed. Seconded by Martin. AYE: Martin, Lewandowski and Lay. NAY: None. Motion carried. Keefer noted that this agreement will be presented to the Mayor and City Council for consideration at their meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, and invited the McPherson's to attend.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT:

Keefer reported that in the March meeting the Board approved participation in the Paris Air Show as a sponsor for a reception to be hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce by means of a \$2,000 contribution. Keefer presented the Board with a copy of the fact sheet that will be handed out at that event representing Grove, OK.

Keefer reported that the Mitchell's have not responded back to the inquiries from the Staff as it pertains to access to their property. Keefer added that the Staff was going to make one more attempt and then leave it up to them to contact the City if they want to discuss their options.

Keefer reported that the Board questioned the timeframe for the payout of the debt from the TIF District. The last payment for the debt is scheduled for 2036.

Keefer reported that he had made contact with Attorney, Dave Jones regarding the possible interest he made on behalf of his client on the Wheeler property located adjacent to Harps, and that no new interest has been released.

Keefer then added that he has received numerous calls in regards to the 'cones' along Sailboat Bridge, and that according to ODOT those cones will remain on the bridge as long as the scaffolding is in place on that bridge. Keefer mentioned that it might the end of the month before that piece of equipment can be removed from the site.

TRUSTEES REPORT:

Martin asked for an update on the new proposed Civic Center project. Keefer reported that it is in the design phase with the Architects. Once they get the design concept it will go to our Bond Counselor for financing and then to the City Council for funding discussion(s). Keefer added that the rough draft design should be completed within a week to ten days.

Lay reported that the orange cones at the intersection of 3rd and Main, preventing a no right turn lane, has a strong impact on the traffic flow. Lay indicated that he has seen the traffic backed all the way up to McDonalds. Lewandowski (owner & operator of McDonalds) concurred with the impact it has on the existing of his restaurant. Lewandowski added that he has witnessed a lot of his customers utilizing the 'Turn Lane' as means of entering onto the highway. Lay & Lewandowski both expressed strong concerns on the impact this could have on the community especially with the upcoming tourist / recreational season. Keefer mentioned that he has spoken with ODOT on several occasions, and that they continual report that is not a turn lane nor will it ever be one because of the accident hazardous it would cause from large semi-trucks making that South turn there.

Lay then reported that early last Friday morning the city crew placed cones all along the sidewalk from the no turning lane all the way down to the Grove Sun office. Lay indicated no problem with that but noted that no crew came to work in that particular area until 1:30 PM that afternoon. Lay questioned that reasoning for laying out the cones that early and interfering with local business while no intentions were to do the work until the afternoon anyway. Lay respectfully requested that they conduct work such as that on days that wouldn't interfere as much with the local businesses.

Lay asked for a completion date on the resurfacing project along Baycrest. Keefer reported that it would be done by the end of the month possibly.

Lay reported that he noticed the steady growth of Sales Tax with the City. Keefer added that the Hotel/Motel & Use Tax have been reporting in growth as well.

At 4:43 PM Martin made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Lewandowski. AYE: Martin, Lewandowski and Lay. NAY: None. Motion carried.