

**Joint Economic Development Organization Board Minutes
March 29, 2017**

City Council Chambers, 214 SE 8th Street, Topeka, Kansas, Wednesday, March 29, 2017.

The Joint Economic Development Organization (JEDO) Board Members met at 6:00 p.m. with the following voting Board Members present: Deputy Mayor Jeff Coen, Councilmembers Tony Emerson and Brendan Jensen and Shawnee County Commissioners Shelly Buhler, Kevin Cook and Bob Archer -6. City of Topeka Mayor Larry Wolgast presided -1.

Nonvoting Board Members Absent: Councilmembers Karen Hiller, Sandra Clear, Sylvia Ortiz, Elaine Schwartz and Richard Harmon

Mayor Wolgast called the meeting to order and announced Councilmember Jensen would serve as proxy in the absence of Councilmember Michelle De La Isla.

APPROVAL of Minutes from the meeting of February 8, 2017 was presented.

Commissioner Archer moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2017. The motion seconded by Commissioner Buhler carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

APPROVAL of JEDO Resolution No. 2017-0001 regarding the Municipal Investment Pool (MIP), a public funds investment pool established pursuant to K.S.A. 125-1677a, was presented.

Mayor Wolgast reported approval would authorize Nickie Lee, JEDO Finance Committee member, to transfer funds for investment in the Municipal Investment Pool as well as other associated duties.

Councilmember Jensen moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Emerson carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

APPROVAL of funding request in the amount of \$124,715 for Project Fairway was presented.

Jackie Steele, Director of Business Retention and Expansion GO Topeka, provided an overview of the project and proposed incentives and economic impact analysis. She reported if the funding request was approved the contract would be presented for consideration at the May 10, 2017, JEDO Board meeting.

Commissioner Cook asked if the 60 full-time jobs and 50 part-time jobs referenced were existing or new jobs.

Jackie Steele reported the project would generate new full-time as well as part-time jobs.

Commissioner Archer moved to approve the funding request in the amount of \$124,715 for Project Fairway contingent upon approval of the potential contract. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Coen.

Scott Griffith spoke in support of the project and investment in the community.

The motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$124,715 for Project Fairway contingent upon approval of the potential contract carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

A DISCUSSION regarding the East Topeka Learning Center Project Update was presented.

Barbara Stapleton, Vice President of Workforce and Education GO Topeka, provided an update on the project including expenditures to date, timeline for the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design, and an update regarding New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) gap program funding.

Commissioner Archer questioned the scope of the project in regards to NMTC's and if a formal agreement has been secured with Washburn Tech.

Barbara Stapleton reported they are currently in discussions regarding NMTC gap funding to provide approximately \$1 million NMTC's to subsidize partnership funds. She also reported they are working to secure an agreement with Washburn Tech and would provide an update at the May 10, 2017 JEDO Board meeting.

A DISCUSSION to provide an update on the Holistic Economic Development Strategy was presented.

Keith Warta, Steering Committee Chair, provided an update on the establishment of a Holistic (Community) Economic Development Strategy. He highlighted the pre-implementation plan for the remainder of the year, including many public outreach efforts followed by the rollout of a program in the fall of 2017.

A DISCUSSION to provide an update on the 49th Street Improvement Project was presented.

Molly Howey, Vice President of Business Development and Attraction GO Topeka, provided an update on the 49th Street Improvement Project. She reported Bartlett & West Engineers have begun designing the three lane industrial collector street and they plan to advertise for Request for Proposals in early June with a five month construction timeline anticipated. She stated the design estimate is \$140,000 and the construction estimate is \$1.6 million.

Mayor Wolgast commended GO Topeka and community leaders for working to develop companies and grow the community; however, as an economic development organization they must also work to provide assistance to Alorica Call Center workers seeking new employment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals appeared to speak under public comment.

Joseph Ledbetter expressed the importance of securing a formal agreement with Washburn Tech for the East Topeka Learning Center and the importance of City code enforcement and how it relates to overall economic development.

Carol Marple commended the JEDO Board for improved transparency of meeting structure and information. She expressed the importance of improving existing properties and forming diverse groups and committees.

No further business appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.