

**Joint Economic Development Organization Board Minutes
July 15, 2015**

City Council Chambers, 214 SE 8th Street, Topeka, Kansas, Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

The Joint Economic Development Organization (JEDO) Board Members met at 6:00 p.m. with the following voting Board Members present: Deputy Mayor Karen Hiller, Councilmembers Michelle De La Isla and Jeffrey Coen; and Shawnee County Commissioners Shelly Buhler, Kevin Cook and Bob Archer -6. City of Topeka Mayor Larry Wolgast presided -1.

Nonvoting Members Present: Councilmember Jonathan Schumm. Absent: Councilmembers Sylvia Ortiz, Brendan Jensen, Elaine Schwartz and Richard Harmon.

Mayor Wolgast called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL of Minutes of the July 1, 2015 JEDO Board meeting was presented.

Mayor Wolgast stated the Board has been provided a clean copy of the minutes that includes the suggested amendment to the public comment statement made by Clark Trammell outlined on page 46.

Councilmember De La Isla moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook.

Public comment included Joseph Ledbetter who requested the word “not” be removed from line 12, page 46 of the minutes to correctly reflect the context of his statement under public comment.

Upon hearing no objections, Mayor Wolgast announced the word “not” would be deleted from the record.

The motion to approve the minutes as amended carried unanimously (7-0-0)

APPROVAL of the funding commitment for Project Storm (Mars Chocolate North America) was presented.

Scott Smathers, GO Topeka Interim President and CEO and Vice President of Economic Development, clarified why there was a need to develop code names for project proposals.

Brett Spangler, Mars Chocolate North America Site Director, provided a brief background of the Mars Company and the Topeka facility site plan. He reported the Company works to remain competitive in the global market as well as with other manufacturing facilities owned by Mars for improvement funds. He stated Topeka’s facility will have invested \$330 million of the \$370 million promised by the end of 2015 and the standards and processes being used in the Topeka facility are having effects globally.

JEDO Board members expressed their appreciation to Mars Chocolate North America for their commitment to the community and the impact they will continue to have on Topeka-Shawnee County residents.

Scott Smathers reported the following:

- Project will generate an approximately \$100 million investment
 - Facility Expansion (Approximately \$30 Million)
 - Equipment Purchase (Approximately \$55 million)
 - Labor (Approximately \$15 million)
 - 70 New employees with an average salary of \$42,000 per year

- Proposing up to \$260,000 for equipment and building
 - Money for new jobs and training has already been escrowed
 - \$5,000 per million invested in the facility based on Shawnee County Appraiser's value (\$150,000 estimated incentive)
 - \$2,000 per million invested for the equipment based on purchase invoices (\$110,000 estimated incentive)
 - Recommending a 10-year property tax abatement

Commissioner Archer moved to approve the funding commitment for Mars Chocolate North America (Project Storm). The motion was seconded by Councilmember De La Isla.

Public comment included Joseph Ledbetter who spoke about the funding commitment.

The motion to approve the funding commitment for Mars Chocolate North America (Project Storm) carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

General public comment included Joseph Ledbetter who spoke about GO Topeka.

No further business appearing the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.