

**Joint Economic Development Organization Board Minutes
September 8, 2021**

The Joint Economic Development Organization (JEDO) Board Members met at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom meeting application and in-person with the following voting Board Members present: Shawnee County Commissioners Bill Riphahn, Kevin Cook and Aaron Mays -3. The following members participated remotely: Deputy Mayor Michael Padilla, Councilmembers Hannah Naeger and Michael Lesser -3. Mayor Michelle De La Isla presided -1. Councilmember Lesser was absent -1. Councilmember Spencer Duncan served as the proxy for Councilmember Lesser. -1

Nonvoting Board Members Present: Councilmembers Karen Hiller, Sylvia Ortiz, and Tony Emerson participated remotely. Councilmembers Christina Valdivia-Alcala and Neil Dobler were absent.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted virtually via the Zoom meeting application. Zoom (virtual) meeting access was provided to those individuals signed up to speak to a specific item. Public comment related to an item on the agenda was submitted in writing to the Office of the City Clerk, 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas, or via email at cclerk@topeka.org.

PRESENTATION on GO Topeka 2021 Quarterly Update was presented.

Molly Howey, GO Topeka President of Economic Development, announced recent promotions and new hires within the Organization; GO Topeka has a new website that includes a workforce tool; and GO Topeka is now an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) through the International Economic Development Council, the first and only AEDO in the State of Kansas. She referenced the new projects by industry encompassing twenty-two projects that are mostly manufacturing and aviation.

Glenda Washington, GO Topeka Chief Equity & Opportunity Officer, presented the JEDO Small Business Grant update and referenced the dashboard that shows the breakdown of grant recipients and where they are located throughout the city. She reported 78 of the 91 applications received were funded, and there are no remaining grant funds. She stated the largest percentage of grants were funded in the 66604 and 66614 zip code areas with amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$7,000.

Katrin Bridges, GO Topeka Sr. Vice President of Innovation, provided an update on the Wheelhouse Incubator Program. She reported seven Topeka businesses joined the 12 week program and set their 30, 60 and 90-day goals and created a plan to reach these milestones for business growth. She noted their success will be tracked over the next few months. She also provided an update on the Plug and Play Topeka program engagement and the Innovation Campus.

In conclusion, Molly Howey provided an update on the Choose Topeka Incentive program.

PRESENTATION on Local Economics was presented.

Freddy Mawyin, GO Topeka Senior Economic Advisor, provided information on the Employment and Average Wages in Shawnee County, 2021 1st Quarter Yearly Employment Change, 2021 1st Quarter

Yearly Change in Wages, the July 2021 Unemployment Rate Map, employment numbers as well as sale tax numbers for Shawnee County.

Mayor De La Isla asked how sales tax numbers in Shawnee County compare to the previous year.

Councilmember Duncan inquired on how Shawnee County compares to nearby counties and other areas across the nation in regards to sales tax income.

Freddy Mawyin stated in 2020 the sales tax numbers were higher compared to 2019 and he would have to report back to the Body with comparison information. He stated he believes Shawnee County's growth is a great contributor to the overall economic growth in the state of Kansas.

APPROVAL of Minutes from the meeting of May 12, 2021 and August 4, 2021, was presented.

Councilmember Naeger moved to approve the May 12, 2021, and the August 4, 2021, JEDO Board meeting minutes. The motion seconded by Commissioner Mays carried unanimously on roll call vote. (7-0-0)

APPROVAL of cash carry-forward funds in the amount of \$130,000 for Small Business Incentives was presented.

Glenda Washington, GO Topeka Chief Equity & Opportunity Officer, presented the Small Business Incentives update. She stated the initial funding request was for \$410,390 and they are now requesting an additional \$130,000. She explained the small business funding application and process and reported there are 60 pending incentive requests at this time, and if the funding request is approved the funds would allow the businesses to purchase equipment and expand.

Mayor De La Isla asked what the expected Return on Investment (ROI) is for the program.

Glenda Washington stated generally the ROI is twice the amount of the investment.

Commissioner Cook inquired on the 2020 budget and how it will impact the cash-carry forward funds and future projects. He expressed concern with the amount of dollars being invested in the Innovation Campus compared to the ROI generated, and if those same funds should be used for a project that would generate a larger ROI in the future.

Natalie Zeller, GO Topeka Senior Vice President of Finance, stated for 2020 there is a projected \$100,000 use of the carry-forward funds. She stated the additional request of funds would increase that amount to approximately \$250,000 and the additional amount being requested would not make a major impact on projects.

Mayor De La Isla stated she is leaning towards supporting the Small Business Initiative due to the impact of the allocations on small entrepreneurs in the community.

Commissioner Mays moved to approve the Small Business Incentives cash carry-forward funds in the amount of \$130,000. The motion seconded by Councilmember Naeger carried on roll call vote. Commissioner Cook voted “no.” (6-0-1)

APPROVAL of 2020 JEDO Audit Report was presented.

Brenda Flanagan, CPA Audit Partner, SSC Wealth, LLC, presented the 2020 Joint Economic Development Organization Audit Letter and Report.

Commissioner Cook moved to approve the 2020 JEDO Audit Report. The motion seconded by Councilmember Naeger carried unanimously on roll call vote. (7-0-0)

REMINDER: 2021 JEDO Board Meeting Dates per the JEDO Operational Rules:

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

No further business appearing the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.