



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Council Session

Item E-4

Public Hearing Concerning the Semi-Annual Report by the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation/Citizens Review Committee on the Economic Development Program Plan

Staff Contact: Ann Martin, Chair of the GIAEDC

Council Agenda Memo

From: Mary Lou Brown, City Administrator

Meeting: May 28, 2013

Subject: Public Hearing Concerning the Semi-Annual Report by the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation/Citizens Review Committee on the Economic Development Program Plan

Item #'s: E-4 & G-5

Presenter(s): Ann Martin, Chair of the Grand Island Economic Development Board of Trustees

Background

The voters of the City of Grand Island approved an economic development plan at the May 6, 2003 election. Subsequent to the election, the city has adopted an ordinance that establishes the economic development plan and a Citizens' Advisory Review Committee to oversee the process of approving applications for economic development incentives. The Citizens' Advisory Review Committee is required by State Statute and the Grand Island City Code to make an annual report to the City Council.

Discussion

The Citizens' Advisory Review Committee has been conducting regular meetings during the last six months as required by the City Code and the Nebraska Statutes. The committee looks forward to receiving and reviewing meritorious applications for consideration in the future. The committee received the semi-annual report from the Economic Development Corporation at its meeting of May 21, 2013 and voted to forward it on to the City Council for its review and acceptance.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Accept the annual report of the Citizens' Advisory Review Committee.

2. Do not accept the annual report of the Citizens' Advisory Review Committee.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council accept the annual report of the Citizens' Advisory Review Committee.

Sample Motion

Move to accept the annual report of the Citizens' Advisory Review Committee.

Semi-Annual Report
To the City of Grand Island
May 28, 2013

As we near the final months of our tenth year of serving this community with the Local Option Plan, LB-840, we would like to thank each of you, and the previous Administration for their support on the 19 projects approved and the future of this program for the next 10 years.

Over the past years, the EDC has been instrumental in creating over 1,188 direct jobs from the LB-840 plan, with an economic impact of over \$36.6 million in payroll. Economic growth, specifically productive growth, is vital to improve the wellbeing of each family in Grand Island and surrounding communities. Economic growth makes addressing many of the problems of our community easier.

The EDC continues to recruit new businesses that fit well in this community. We also work consistently in recruitment of workforce. Last fall we hosted two possible projects which would have had a huge impact on this community. Each one of these was different than the last. We have learned over the years that you can purchase land for future businesses, but if you don't have that site "shovel ready" you probably won't have another opportunity.

A big thank you for your support on the development of Platte Valley Industrial Park East. The approval of the \$925,000 Community Development Block Grant along with the matching funds from the

LB-840 funding have been used for construction of the water, sewer and paving of Blaine Street. This park is not only in the City limits of Grand Island, but is zoned heavy manufacturing, and declared blight and substandard lending itself for Tax Increment Financing for the new business on the horizon.

PVIP East's close proximity to Interstate 80, being located between two (2) 4-lane highway's (281 & S. Locust), Grand Island's redundant power, serviced by Union Pacific railroad, and zoned heavy manufacturing are all essential recruitment tools which make this park Nebraska's premier Industrial Park.

It is no secret that the EDC is about creating jobs and increasing our tax base, but this organization goes well beyond creating jobs. We are involved in various community projects and state legislation.

- The sewer extension to Interstate 80
- Career Pathways Institute
- Revitalization of our Downtown, and
- Legislation (LB-66) is focusing on allowing redevelopment for former military bases located outside of City Limits.

Our top priority this year is to insure that our Veterans have a wonderful new home right here in Grand Island.

All this good news is not without its challenges. A year ago City Council approved the LB-840 application for Medbery Fabrication LLC. Unfortunately, Ed Medbery was unable to fulfill the hiring requirements. Mr. Medbery has repaid the City the full amount given to him and is under no further obligations.

Since October 1, 2012, Nova-Tech has fulfilled their job creation obligations and the total amount of their grant has been forgiven. Standard Iron has retained the 123 employees and the first of three forgiveness years has been satisfied with \$75,000 being forgiven. Rogue Mfg. continues to meet the terms of their agreement. They currently have 12.09 FTE's, and our best kept secret is Hastings Foods. They continue to expand their operations and increase their FTE's. Gary Deal does a wonderful job with the Grand Island plant. They started with just a handful of employees and now are at 92 FTE's.

In our quest to find employees to fill key positions within our manufacturing and various other entities, we are very excited to host over 500 UNL and UNO Engineering students to our community on September 27th. This daylong event will allow our industries a chance to not only showcase their business, but allow students to experience what this community has to offer and seek answers to questions they may have regarding future positions after college. The EDC will be asking companies to host tours and participate in a job fair at the conclusion of their day long visit to our community. We are in the planning stages of this event, so we ask any of you who are interested in participating to let us know.

These are only a few of the exciting affairs that we deal with in our office. As we move forward into the next generation of LB-840 we ask for your continued support.

Presented by:
Ann Martin
Chairwoman of the Board