



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 10, 2006

Council Session

Item C2

Presentation by Marlan Ferguson, Economic Development President Relative to the Economic Development Program Plan

Marlan Ferguson, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will update the Mayor and City Council on Economic Development activities in Grand Island and Hall County. See attached Annual Report 2006.

Staff Contact: Marlan Ferguson, EDC President

CITIZENS REVIEW COMMITTEE
ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Annual Report
2006

The City of Grand Island Economic Development Program Plan was approved by the citizens at an election on May 6th 2003. The effective date of the Plan was October 1, 2003. The Plan often times is referred to as LB-840 or the Local Option Municipal Development Act.

Prior to the passage of the plan, \$350,000 annually was given to the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation (GIAEDC) for promotion, recruiting, public relations and advertising. The Plan allowed an additional \$400,000 to be used for incentives for business and industries for a total of \$750,000 in the plan annually for a period of 10 years.

Proposed fiscal Period October 1, 2006 thru September 30, 2007 Budget

Infrastructure Costs

Platte Valley Industrial Park

Interest, Real Estate Taxes, Maintenance, Advertising	\$ 40,000.00
Special Assessments to City	45,000.00
Debt Service Payments	83,000.00
Infrastructure/Housing Needs Study (long range plan)	27,000.00

Project Costs 98,000.00

Employee Training - Welding Program 27,500.00

Community Publicity

(to include business retention and recruitment, occupancy, and operational costs)	29,500.00
	<u>\$ 350,000.00</u>

The State Statute required the establishment of a Citizen's Review Committee to: (1) Review the functioning and progress of the Economic Development Program and (2) Report to the City Council on its findings and suggestions at a public hearing called for that purpose at least once in every six-month period after the effective date of the ordinance.

This Public Hearing is the third of such reports. Since the conception of this program, the Review Committee has approved five applications. These projects include:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>INCENTIVE \$'S</u>	<u>EMPLOYEES</u>
Standard Iron	\$200,000	82

Heritage Disposal & Storage	\$100,000	21
CXT	\$200,000	55
Love Signs	\$ 42,000	13
J.C. Doyle	\$ 20,000	11

The Economic Development Corporation continues to create jobs and expand the tax base for our community. In the year of 2005, Construction valuation increased to a record 3.2 billion dollars in total valuations of which 91 million is in new real estate or improvements, and 5 million in new business equipment. Major projects contributing to the increase were Saint Francis Medical Center New Patient Tower and Heartland Events Center. These projects show the dedication to Economic Development and will assist the community in becoming a stronger leader in the medical field and recreational/cultural activities.

In the spring of 2004, GIAEDC was instrumental in the passage of the ½ Cent Sales Tax initiatives. This allowed for property tax relief; Edith Abbott Library expansion; Law Enforcement Center; Fire Station #1; Grand Generation Center Improvements; and Future Infrastructure (Fire Training Center). Economic Development supported the passage of the Grand Island School Bond; Hall County Corrections Bond; and the Heartland Events Center. All these projects assist in the recruiting of businesses and industries as it shows commitment and pride from the citizens.

Promoting our community continues to be a priority in the usage of LB-840 funding. Our most recent accomplishment was certifying Grand Island as a community that is publicly recognized as an economic development leader; better positioned for economic development opportunities; properly identified and documented as ready for economic development; and able to be marketed to business and industry. Aggressive marketing of Grand Island is done by utilizing various trade magazines showcasing site consultants. These individuals allow us networking capabilities across the United States. We have been featured in such periodicals as Heartland Real Estate Business, Expansion Solutions (Metal Fabrication), Nebraska Trucking, and Inbound Logistics to name just a few. With the collaboration of the I-80 Corridor Coalition and South Central Economic Development District, joint efforts in providing labor statistics, workforce recruitment, advertising and web site development are ongoing. The I-80 labor study has been instrumental in workforce recruitment and expansion of new and existing businesses.

Promotional activities continue each year by hosting the Nebraska Diplomat Passport Weekend in Lincoln; G.I./Hall County Day at the Legislature reception; GIAEDC Annual Golf Outing and Annual Meeting. Other promotional activities include: Husker Harvest Days, Nebraska Alumni Job Fair(s), being a Nebraska State Fair exhibitor, out state business recruitment/site visits, web site development/updates – NEDI, LOIS, GIAEDC, and participating on various boards.

A community partner is defined as one who is united or associated with another or others in an activity or a sphere of common interest. GIAEDC is fortunate to have Central Community College, Nebraska Workforce Development, Grand Island Area Chamber of

Commerce, Grand Island Public School Administration, Southern Public Power, Hall County Airport Authority, City of Grand Island, and Hall County as a progressive partner in our community growth and economic development efforts.

Without breaching confidentiality, over the past three years our office has submitted 67 proposals for new industry/expansion projects. Of which, 29 were in manufacturing; 7 food processing; 8 warehousing/distribution; 8 telecommunications; 2 technology and software development; 6 ethanol production; 7 other. As our community continues to be recognized, our office has become inundated for new proposals. Each proposal has its own unique characteristics and key elements that need to be addressed. The assistance of key city staff and Workforce Development staff to assist in the preparation of these proposals in a timely and efficient manner is critical as some projects allow only a few days to submit.

In closing, let's not forget our past commitments, but let's move forward in a professional and intellectual matter that puts us a step ahead and gives the public the confidence that indeed we are moving in the right direction.