



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Council Session

Item C3

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 2007.

Staff Contact: Marlan Ferguson, EDC President

LOCAL OPTION MUNICIPAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

Annual Report
2007

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 Economic 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, 2007 thru September 30, 2008 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
Housing Needs Study (long range plan)	8,500.00
Infrastructure Study PVIP II	30000.00

Project Costs 98,000.00

Employee Training 20,500.00

Community Publicity

(to include business retention and recruitment,
occupancy, and operational costs) 25,000.00

\$ 350,000.00

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 fourth Annual Report. Since the conception of this program, the Review Committee has approved nine applications. These projects include:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>INCENTIVE \$'S</u>	<u>JOBS CREATED</u>
Standard Iron	\$200,000	250
Heritage Disposal & Storage	100,000	25
CXT	200,000	55
Love Signs	42,000	25
J.C. Doyle	20,000	21
O'Neill Wood Resources	45,000	20
Case IH	330,000	800
Principal	325,000	850
Hornady's	<u>154,000</u>	259
TOTAL	\$ 1,416,000	

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. Grand Island has recently been acknowledged as a "Certified Community" by the State of Nebraska. This accomplishment means that Grand Island continues to be 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), 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, Hall County Airport Authority, and NorthWestern Energy, with the 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 four years our office has submitted 98 proposals for new industry/expansion projects. Of which, 45 were in manufacturing; 11 food processing; 13 warehousing/distribution; 12 telecommunications; 3 technology and software development; 6 ethanol production; 8 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, Central Community College, and Workforce Development 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 Grand Island a step ahead and gives the public the confidence that indeed we are moving in the right direction.