

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, August 20, 2018

Regular Meeting

Item Public Inp3

Council to receive an update on Economic Development Activities.

Staff Contact: Nathan Johnson, City Manager

Economic Development Update 08/20/2018

Since starting as Economic Development Director with the City of Scottsbluff on 07/31/2017, I have worked hard to bring good paying jobs with benefits to the area and promote the city's LB840 Program. The following jobs have been created over the past year:

Flyover Brewery - 5 jobs

MR Housing - 7 jobs

Inventive Media - 5 jobs

McKinney Manufacturing - 8 jobs

Treaty Site Farms - 7 jobs

Pioneer Animal Clinic - 12 jobs

Candy Barn Express - 7 jobs

Complete Care Family Practice - 4 jobs

Bluffs Physical Therapy - 7 jobs

JADS Trucking - 6 jobs

Elite Urgent Care - 8 jobs

Mitchell Care Center - 55 jobs retained

Vista Beam - 10 jobs

There will be several LB840 applications coming forward to the council pending approval of the LB840 Application Review Committee, who I work closely with.

In addition, I have administered the very successful East Overland Façade Improvement Program maximizing the city's return on investment.

The position has allowed me to attend national trade shows in the areas of manufacturing and food processing where I was able to talk to companies around

the country about relocating their business to Scottsbluff and western Nebraska. This is usually a 2-3 year process and is done by building relationships.

We are working on developing “shovel ready” sites within the city limits and beyond planning ahead for TIF Districts and utility placement.

When the Opportunity Zone information came out from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, an application was prepared for the designation for three Scottsbluff census tracts. We were successful in our application, receiving one of the forty-four Opportunity Zone designations in the state.

Scottsbluff volunteered and was chosen for the location for the Heartland Expressway Annual Meeting which brought attendees in from Wyoming, Colorado as well as communities members north and south of town. Keynote speaker was Lt. Governor Mike Foley and Kyle Schneweis, Director of the Nebraska Department of Transportation also made remarks.

The City of Scottsbluff will be hosting the 2nd Annual Manufacturing Day in October which will include state speakers and tours of manufacturing facilities. The attraction of new and growth of existing manufacturing in the region is a priority as well as the interest and training of a skilled workforce.

I have invited the team of recruiters from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to western Nebraska so that they can see and tour first-hand the sites and buildings available in the area. This is important when they receive calls from prospective companies to know what they are talking about and the many amenities we have to offer.

As Economic Development Director, I represent the city at meetings of the Western Nebraska Economic Development group (WNED), a regional group comprised of eight communities formed in 2014 as a result of the Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan. I serve as a board member for the Heartland Expressway Association, attend Panhandle Area Development District Meetings and am a member of the Western Nebraska Development Network (WNDN). I recently completed a four year term on the board of directors of the Nebraska Economic Developers Association, serving as Scholarship Chairman and represent western Nebraska as a District 11 Tourism Commissioner.