

# **VALLEY CENTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 1:00 P.M.

Valley Center City Hall, 121 S. Meridian Avenue, Valley Center, KS

## **MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:00 P.M. AND STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

### **THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ben Anderson, Board Chairperson

Ron Colbert

Jake Jackson

Ashley Martin

Ryan Shrack, Community Development Director

Brent Clark, City Administrator

Allan Safarik

### **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 4, 2019 MINUTES**

Motion was made by Ron Colbert and seconded by Jake Jackson to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting. Vote was unanimous.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. 2021-2023 City Strategic Plan Status Report**

Ryan presented a brief update to the board on the status of the 2021-2023 City Strategic Plan. A steering committee is being organized to collaborate with RDG, the hired consultant that will help write the new plan. Casey Carlson will serve on this steering committee and represent the Economic Development Board.

#### **B. Review of 2020 Tax Abatement Applications**

Ryan presented a staff report on Safarik Tool Company's application to renew its tax abatement agreement with the City for 2020. The company has continued to grow and hire additional full-time workers. Allan Safarik was in attendance to represent the company. Chairperson Anderson asked Allan how the recent issues with the Boeing 737 MAX was affecting his business. Allan responded that they work with Spirit Aerosystems in Wichita and in Malaysia. They are watching to see what will happen in the near future and are hopeful production will resume soon. Safarik Tool Co. has been awarded two contracts recently and this will help offset their work for Spirit. Jake Jackson stated that Safarik Tool Co. has been a good addition to Valley Center. Brent stated that he has learned about a potential grant fund from the Kansas Dept. of Commerce that can be used to help companies sell products in overseas markets. Allan stated that the company is looking at another potential building expansion in 2021. This expansion is largely dependent on what happens with the economy. Jake Jackson made a motion to recommending approval to City Council to approve Safarik Tool Company's tax abatement for 2020. The motion was seconded by Ron Colbert. Vote was unanimous.

### C. General Discussion

Chairperson Anderson mentioned that Main Street Valley Center will be hosting a special event on July 4<sup>th</sup> this year. He stated that he feels that this will provide a boost to the local economy and should be a great community event.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### A. Board Member Additions

Ryan shared with the board that City Council approved the creation of two new board member positions in January. After discussing some potential names, the board made the decision to have Ryan and Brent work on advertising these open positions on the City's Facebook page and ask identified individuals if they would be willing to serve. The board will review all the applications that are received at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and select two individuals to recommend to City Council for approval to serve on the board.

#### B. Valley Center Business Exchange

Ryan and Brent led a discussion with the board on how to begin a better engagement with the local business community. While a large event will still be discussed in the future, City staff recommended starting a small, more casual conversation with various key stakeholders in the local business community. This small group will share ideas and input on how the community can improve the local economy and encourage further business development. After discussing potential dates and times, it was decided by the board that the first of these gatherings will take place on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM. The meeting will be held at Main Street Coffee with the intent of switching between this location and the Hornet's Nest donut shop. City staff will send out invitations to business leaders.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjourning, Jake Jackson thanked Ben Anderson and everyone else for their work on getting Leeker's to open a new pharmacy in Valley Center. Ron Colbert shared with the board that there will be a special event later in the year that he will talk more about in the future. Motion was made by Ron Colbert and seconded by Jake Jackson to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 1:33 P.M. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ryan Shrack, Economic Development Board Secretary