



C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

Megan Ronk, Director

Economic Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2017

700 West State Street, Boise – J.R. Williams Building

Members Present:

Mike Reynoldson, *Region 3*
Margaret Watson, *At-Large*

Members Present Via Phone:

Steve Meyer, *Region 1*
Robin Woods, *Region 2*
John Craner, *Region 4*
Arlen Wittrock, *Region 5*
Mark Young, *Region 6*

Commerce Staff Present:

Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, *Chief Operations Officer*
Susan Davidson, *Business Attraction Manager*
Cindy Lee, *Grants & Contracts Manager*
Autumn Braase, *Senior Business Attraction Specialist*
Eric Forsch, *Senior Business Attraction Specialist*
Patrick Watson, *Senior Research Analyst*
Amanda Ames, *Community Development Specialist*
Audra Fink, *Administrative Assistant*
Andrea Vlassis-Zahn, *Business Attraction Specialist*

Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman Arlen Wittrock called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Council Vote on Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Wittrock noted that the minutes for the April 18, 2017 Economic Advisory Council (EAC) meeting had been distributed and if there are no corrections he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes as distributed.

Moved by: Margie Watson

Seconded by: Steve Meyer

All in favor. No discussion.

Motion approved.

Motion to Move to Executive Session

Chairman Wittrock announced the Council will review the details of one application for refundable tax credit under the Idaho Reimbursement Incentive Act that has been received by the Director and submitted to this Council for review. **The application contain records and information exempt from public disclosure under Idaho Code §§ 9-340D(6) and 67-4708. Chairman Wittrock entertained a motion under Idaho Code § 67-2345(1)(d) to go into executive session to review the application.**

Mark Young moved to enter into executive session. Steve Meyer seconded.

Roll call vote to move into executive session:

John Craner – Aye

Steve Meyer - Aye

Mike Reynoldson - Absent

Margie Watson – Aye

Arlen Wittrock – Aye
Robin Woods - Aye
Mark Young - Aye

With over two-thirds majority in favor of moving into executive session, the Council moved into executive session at 2:06 p.m.

Return to Public Session

Chairman Wittrock noted that the Council returned to the public session at 2:43 p.m.

Chairman Wittrock indicated the Council:

1. Reviewed and discussed the application submitted for refundable tax credits; and
2. Closed the Executive Session after discussions were concluded. The motion to close the Executive Session was made by Robin Woods, seconded by Margie Watson.

Review of Tax Reimbursement Incentive for PROJECT FIBER

Chairman Wittrock entertained a motion for PROJECT FIBER.

Motion:

In the matter of the application for PROJECT FIBER, I move that the Council approve the application and instruct the Director to enter into an agreement with PROJECT FIBER upon the following terms:

- A post-performance refundable tax credit which represents 18% for six years.
- No less than 20 new jobs or 60% of the total annual project jobs, whichever is greater.
- Average annual wages must equal or exceed the Washington County average wage of \$28,292.

The tax credit certificate will be issued post-performance upon review and verification by Commerce. The company must maintain operations in Idaho for the term of the agreement. The Director may add additional terms, not otherwise conflicting with the above conditions, including allowance for a maximum two-year construction phase during the term of the agreement, if applicable.

The motion was made by Mike Reynoldson, seconded by Margie Watson.

Roll call vote to approve the TRI application for PROJECT FIBER:

John Craner – Aye
Steve Meyer - Aye
Mike Reynoldson - Aye
Margie Watson – Aye
Arlen Wittrock – Aye
Robin Woods - Aye
Mark Young – Aye

Final Thoughts

The next in-person EAC meeting will be held July 20-21 in Coeur d'Alene. The council will tour Kochava and Quest Aviation in Sandpoint. Margie requested that the July meeting include an agenda item to discuss saturation in the workforce with relation to the TRI program.

The Community Development Block Grant program has been funded for the following year at an estimated amount of \$7.5 million dollars.

Mark informed the council that voters in Bonneville County approved a measure to turn Eastern Idaho Technical College into a full community college called the College of Eastern Idaho. The measure, which required a two-thirds majority to pass, passed by a margin of 71%.

The Economic Advisory Council has a vacant position in Region VII. Eligible applicants must reside in Blaine, Custer, Lemhi, Butte, or Camas County and be registered with the Democratic Party. Megan and Bobbi-Jo are vetting names and hope to have the position filled by August 1, 2017.

Megan and Bobbi-Jo are also looking to fill Arlen and Margie's council positions as their terms are set to expire on July 31, 2017. Bobbi-Jo is confident that their replacements will soon be confirmed and that they will begin on August 1, 2017. The EAC Council should have no vacancies by August of 2017.

Margie expressed to the council that because her position is at-large she believes the person who fills her seat should have some city background, whether they were a former mayor or city commissioner. Margie believes it is important to have someone on the council with a vantage point of running a government entity and who understands the pressures and problems that go with these positions. Margie asked the council to provide her with names of anyone they know who meet the specified criteria.

Motion

Steve Meyer moved to close the meeting. Robin Woods seconded.

All ayes – motion approved.

Chairman Wittrock adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.