



C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

Megan Ronk, Director

**Economic Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, June 22, 2017**

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

Members Present:

John Craner, *Region 4*

Members Present Via Phone:

Steve Meyer, *Region 1*

Robin Woods, *Region 2*

Arlen Wittrock, *Region 5*

Mark Young, *Region 6*

Margaret Watson, *At-Large*

Commerce Staff Present:

Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, *Chief Operations Officer*

Cindy Lee, *Grants & Contracts Manager*

Autumn Braase, *Senior Business Attraction Specialist*

Patrick Watson, *Senior Research Analyst*

Ewa Szewczyk, *Grants & Contracts Program Specialist*

Audra Fink, *Administrative Assistant*

Members Absent:

Mike Reynoldson, *Region 3*

Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman Arlen Wittrock called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Council Vote on Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Wittrock noted that the minutes for the May 25, 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: Mark Young

Seconded by: Margie Watson

All in favor. No discussion.

Motion approved.

Bobbi-Jo Meuleman introduced Project Sparrow.

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.**

Moved by: Margie Watson

Seconded by: Robin Woods

Roll call vote to move into executive session:

John Craner – Aye
Steve Meyer - Aye
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 2:09 p.m.

Return to Public Session

Chairman Wittrock noted that the Council returned to the public session at 2:41 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 Margie Watson, seconded by Steve Meyer.

Review of Tax Reimbursement Incentive for PROJECT SPARROW

Chairman Wittrock entertained a motion for PROJECT SPARROW.

Motion:

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

- A post-performance refundable tax credit which represents 25% for fourteen years.
- No less than 50 new jobs or 80% of the total annual projected jobs, whichever is greater.
- Average annual wages must equal or exceed the Ada County average wage of \$44,870
- Subject to confirmation of the type and value of the pledged community match

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.

Moved by: Mark Young

Seconded by: John Craner

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

John Craner – Aye
Steve Meyer -- Aye

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

Final Thoughts

The next EAC meeting will be held July 20-21 in Coeur d'Alene.

The Economic Advisory Council (EAC) has a vacant position in Region VII. Eligible applicants must reside in Blaine, Custer, Lemhi, Butte, or Camas County and be registered with a party other than the Republican Party. Megan and Bobbi-Jo hope to have the position filled by August 1, 2017.

Bobbi-Jo reminded the Council that members may only serve two consecutive three year terms. Steve, who was appointed to finish out a previous council member's term, inquired of Bobbi-Jo as to the specific rules of his situation. Cindy will look up the statute and respond to Steve with her findings.

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and Megan Ronk are at the Paris Air Show promoting Idaho's aerospace industry with 11 Idaho companies. Governor Otter and Megan also toured Materne and Lactalis as both companies have facilities in Idaho.

Lieutenant Governor Brad Little and Bobbi-Jo recently attended the SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington D.C. Idaho took a delegation of 27 people which resulted in strong connections and several potential leads.

According to Bobbi-Jo, Idaho's Higher Education Task Force, composed of 36 individuals including all eight presidents of Idaho's public colleges and universities, met on Friday, June 9 to discuss Idaho's college graduation rates and workforce challenges throughout the state. Per Steve, the Task Force also discussed potentially moving Idaho's colleges and universities to a trimester schedule in order to help students complete their education in a timelier manner.

During the 2017 legislative session Mark stated that Idaho backed up nearly \$90 million dollars in bonds that will be put forward to advance two buildings for the Idaho National Lab (INL). Nearly 1,000 people will be involved in construction of the two buildings. The projected average base salary for INL employees is \$126,000.

Eastern Idaho Technical College, which was recently voted to change to a community college, has set a date of June 24, 2017 as the last day for trustees to apply for the school board. The State Board of Education will oversee the board's hiring and the college's curriculum planning, per Mark.

Motion

Robin Woods moved to close the meeting. Margie Watson seconded.
All eyes – motion approved.

Chairman Wittrock adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.