

MINUTES
Lawton Economic Development Authority
Special Meeting
November 9, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.
City Hall
3rd Floor Conference Room
212 SW 9th Street
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501

Fred Fitch, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. in the 3rd floor conference room of City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Fred Fitch, David Means, Ron Nance, Randy Warren, David Madigan

ABSENT: Larry Neal, Jason Hensley, George Gill, Ernest Sheppard

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Schlecht, Financial Services; Greg Gibson, City Attorney's Office; Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk's Office; Kim McConnell, Lawton Constitution; Charlotte Brown, Planning Division

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OKLAHOMA OPEN MEETING ACT, 25 O.S. 301-314

Meeting notice and agenda were posted by the City Clerk's office, as required by law.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Consider approving a Professional Services Agreement for Executive Director for the Lawton Economic Development Authority and take action as deemed necessary.

Chairman Fitch gave background information regarding this item. A copy of the Professional Services Agreement for Executive Director for the Lawton Economic Development Authority may be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

Chairman Fitch said they've been working on finessing this Agreement for about two months. The Agreement has gone through negotiations. The Authority will pay 55% of this person's salary, and the salary will be paid by the hotel motel economic development tax fund. The Lawton Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) will pay the other 45% of this person's salary. Chairman Fitch said the Executive Director will be housed in the LEDC Office. The Executive Director will work under the direct Authority of Chairman Fitch and Brad Cooksey with the LEDC.

Chairman Fitch said the Agreement being presented to the Authority is with Richard Rogalski. He stated he would like to see Richard in this position because he is very familiar with TIF districts and how they operate.

Chairman Fitch noted that nothing new has been added to this contract since the last time the Authority saw it.

Madigan asked Fitch if he must have City Council approval to pay the Executive Director.

Chairman Fitch said he has presented the request to Council, and they voted to approve the funding for the Executive Director's salary. It will be paid out of the hotel motel economic development tax fund.

Nance asked if Rogalski plans to resign from his position with Anadarko.

Chairman Fitch said yes.

Warren said he is happy to see Rogalski come back – his knowledge and expertise with regards to TIF districts and overlay districts have been missed.

Nance noted that Rogalski proved to be a hard worker while employed with the City of Lawton – he was always involved with multiple City projects.

Chairman Fitch noted this is part of the reason why his office would be housed at the LEDC. This way he can focus solely on economic development without getting pulled into other various City projects.

Chairman Fitch said the LEDC has already approved and signed their contract with the Executive Director. He said he will be calling Rogalski after the meeting is over to let him know the final decision.

Motion by Means, **Second** by Warren, to approve the Professional Services Agreement for Executive Director for the Lawton Economic Development Authority. **AYE:** Warren, Madigan, Means, Nance, Fitch. **NAY:** None. ***MOTION PASSED.***

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Warren, **Second** by Means, to adjourn the November 9, 2023 meeting. **AYE:** Warren, Madigan, Means, Nance, Fitch. **NAY:** None. ***MOTION PASSED.***

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:18 PM.