**GROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018**

**4:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

The Grove Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Monday, July 16, 2018 at 4:00 PM with Chairman, Ron Lay presiding. Members present were Ivan Devitt, Keith Martin, David Adzigian and Mike Lewandowski. Also present was General Manager, Bill Keefer; Assistant General Manager, Debbie Bottoroff and City Clerk, Bonnie Buzzard. City Treasurer, Lisa Allred was absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**:

Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Director, Donnie Crain addressed the Board with an update on the following projects and activities events with the GACC:

* Location Guide – next week the new website should be up and running with intentions that it will be more user friendly.
* Travel and Tourism
* Cherokee Queen property currently on the list for Sheriff Sales
* “Liquor by the Drink” – restaurants seeing the benefits from that law
* Interest from Individual wanting to relocate back to Grove @ the battery plant location
* Oklahoma Department of Commerce – Industrial Park businesses
* Local business outside city limits looking @ expanding in Business Park

Adzigian made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Lewandowski. AYE: Martin, Adzigian, Lewandowski and Lay. NAY: None. Devitt abstained. Motion carried.

Devitt made the motion to approve the purchase order register Seconded by Martin. AYE: Devitt, Martin, Adzigian, Lewandowski and Lay. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Lay opened the floor for discussion with respect to approval of an Agreement with the Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Grove for Economic Development Services. Keefer reported that this agreement was prepared by the City Attorney and is based upon the scope of work that was developed by the Chamber and used as the cornerstone for discussion during the goal setting workshop with the GEDA Board. Keefer added that the funding for this agreement has been provided for in the 2018-2019 budget. President of the Chamber, Donnie Crain addressed the Board outlining his priorities for the first three months of this agreement:

* Initial business retention and expansion meetings with existing businesses and industries, to better understand their opportunities, challenges, and concerns and assist where possible.
* Initial development of the Grove Area Economic Strategy, identifying 4-5 strategic business sectors to proactively target to move to Grove economy forward with actionable goals/objectives related to each to focus economic development efforts.
* Attain membership and actively attend state / regional economic development organizational meetings to ensure Grove is represented and involved in discussions of importance pertaining to economic development, and
* Development / refinement of website resources of interest related to economic development.

Crain entertained questions, comments and concerns from the Board and Staff. Keefer added that, if approved, this agreement would need to go upon recommendation to the Mayor and City Council for final consideration. Devitt made the motion to approve the agreement with the Grove Area Chamber of Commerce upon recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. Seconded by Lewandowski. AYE: Devitt, Martin, Adzigian, Lewandowski and Lay. NAY: None. Motion carried.

Lay then opened the floor for discussion with respect to membership in the Miami Area Economic Development Service, Inc. Keefer reported that the Staff received a letter from Miami Area Economic Development Services (MEADS) inviting GEDA to become a member (investor) in their organization. Keefer mentioned that GEDA receives this invitation at least once a year, and that the Staff has reached out to MAEDS several times to discuss opportunities and ways our communities’ could work together to benefit NE Oklahoma. Unfortunately, no progress has been made on their behalf on scheduling a sit down/face-to-face meeting. Keefer noted that he is looking for some type of directions from the Board on how they wish to proceed with this invitation. Keefer discussed the pro & cons of this investment with the Board, and that no logically conclusion was reached. Keefer noted that he would keep the invitation opened for discussion, and would report back to the Board with any new information. No Action was taken.

**GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT**:

Keefer updated the Board on the progress of the City Hall South parking lot project.

Keefer announced that the special election is upcoming to consider the extension of the 4/10th Sales Tax. Keefer mentioned the other issues on the ballot that day will be the run-off primaries for various elected state positions. Keefer added that he has prepared a list of common questions and answers that are sure to be asked in regards to the proposition, and that this information will be placed on the cityofgrove.ok.gov website, and will be provided to the media as well as other entities such as the Chamber of Commerce, etc.

Keefer then added that he has received notification that the Grove Battery Plant is looking at reopening. The plant has several concerns dealing with property liens, outstanding utility cost, and high weeds.

**TRUSTEES REPORT**:

Lay asked who is in charge of the landscaping maintenance of the downtown area. Lay mentioned that the trees need to be trimmed up. The limbs interfere on the pedestrians walking along the sidewalks. Keefer noted that he would visit with Craig Criger.

At 5:03 PM Devitt made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Adzigian. AYE: Devitt, Martin, Adzigian, Lewandowski and Lay. NAY: None. Motion carried.