



COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

APPROVED SUMMARIZED MINUTES

Thursday, June 10, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Meeting was held electronically.

- Subcommittee Members:** Councilwoman Linda Milhaven, Chair
Councilwoman Solange Whitehead
Vice Mayor Betty Janik
- Staff:** Rob Millar, Director Economic Development
Josh Utterback, Economic Development Program Manager
- Guests:** Thomas Barr, Executive Director at Local First Arizona
Brad Smidt, Senior Vice President Business Development,
Greater Phoenix Economic Council

Call to Order

Councilwoman Linda Milhaven called the regular meeting of the Council Subcommittee on Economic Development to order at 4:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Councilwoman Linda Milhaven, Vice Mayor Betty Janik, Councilwoman Solange Whitehead

1. Approval of February 25, 2021 Summarized Minutes

Motion to approve as presented: Councilwoman Whitehead, Second: Vice Mayor Janik. Motion carried 3/0.

2. Small Business Economic Recovery Training Program Overview

Thomas Barr, Executive Director at Local First Arizona and potentially other Local First staff, will present an overview and recap of the small business economic recovery training program offered by Local First Arizona to Scottsdale businesses.

Presenter: Thomas Barr, Executive Director – Local First Arizona

Staff Contact: Josh Utterback, Economic Development Program Manager –
480-312-7057

Action: Presentation and Discussion

Thomas Barr, Executive Director at Local First Arizona presented an overview of the small business assistance program, emphasizing the city's large small business community. Mr. Barr communicated that of all of the communities they had worked with, Scottsdale had the best participation rate. Mr. Barr reviewed Local First Arizona's outreach process, interaction and types of trainings provided. Some of the training provided was focused on restaurant bootcamp training and technical assistance. Local First Arizona staff has continued ongoing follow up with their Scottsdale clients. Mr. Barr stated that 100% of the businesses they worked with during the pandemic are still operating. Councilwoman Whitehead commented that she was very pleased with the results of this program and thanked Local First Arizona.

3. Greater Phoenix Economic Council

Brad Smidt, Senior Vice President Business Development, Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) and potentially other GPEC staff, will present an update on business development activity in FY 2020/21.

Presenter: Brad Smidt, Senior Vice President Business Development, Greater Phoenix Economic Council

Staff Contact: Rob Millar, Economic Development Director

Action: Presentation and Discussion

Brad Smidt, Senior Vice President Business Development, Greater Phoenix Economic Council provided an overview of GPEC's activities for FY21. Mr. Smidt stated that GPEC has seen a lot of interest in the Phoenix Metro area and feels there is a lot of opportunities in the pipeline. 31% of GPEC's prospects are from California, along with a lot of interest from international prospects. Mr. Smidt also reviewed recent and the past five-year results for Scottsdale, along with a review of the FY22 action plan.

Councilwoman Whitehead asked about the TSMC manufacturing facility locating in Phoenix and attracting suppliers to support this location. Mr. Smidt stated that GPEC feels strongly that there will be locates around the Valley that are supporting this Phoenix facility.

Councilwoman Milhaven asked about office demand post-Covid. Mr. Smidt stated that many companies have not made a final decision on when and how to bring their workforce back to the office and he feels some employers may offer a limited work from home option, but it is still very difficult to predict how this will affect the office space demand.

4. Economic Development Update

Economic Development Director, Rob Millar and potentially other city staff will provide an update on economic development trends, events and projects.

Presenter: Rob Millar, Economic Development Director – 480-312-2533

Staff Contact: Rob Millar, Economic Development Director – 480-312-2533

Action: Presentation and Discussion

Rob Millar, Economic Development Director provided an update on economic development efforts. Mr. Millar stated that he agrees with Mr. Smidt’s assessment of the workforce coming back to the office and feels that towards the end of summer/fall we will see more of the workforce returning to the office.

Mr. Millar introduced two new employees to the department: Jorge Hernandez, Economic Development Specialist and Scott Cooper, Economic Development Business Attraction Manager. Mr. Millar reviewed the main elements of the newly approved strategic plan and commented that the department is currently going through a brand refresh, which is targeted for release in early July. Mr. Millar reviewed the department’s YTD metrics and priorities for the first quarter of FY 2021/22. Vice Mayor Janik commented that these were very positive numbers considering the current economy. Vice Mayor Janik also asked how long it takes to roll out a new brand. Mr. Millar responded that the first 6 months will be intense, but the refresh should last for about 12 months.

Councilwoman Whitehead asked what companies located in Scottsdale in Q3. Mr. Millar stated that the locates were LifeStance and the development of Entrada. Councilwoman Whitehead commented that she met an individual recently who communicated that Scottsdale had lost a lot of high wage companies due to Prop. 208 and asked if we had any thoughts or information on this issue. Mr. Millar responded that at approximately 15,000 businesses in Scottsdale, we are not seeing that exodus, but he has heard conversations about Prop.208. Councilwoman Whitehead asked about the Local First Arizona’s contract and if the city would continue utilizing their services in the future. Mr. Millar stated they did a great job and that the department is looking at what the next level of support will be for our local businesses. Councilwoman Whitehead commented that Scottsdale Water has an apprenticeship position open and asked if staff would consider posting this position on our jobs website.

5. Open Call to the Public (A.R.S. §38-431.02)

Citizens may address the members of the Council Subcommittee on Economic Development during Public Comment. This “Public Comment” time is reserved for written citizen comments submitted electronically regarding non-agendized items. However, Arizona State law prohibits the Subcommittee on Economic Development from discussing or taking action on an item that is not on the agenda.


No public comments received.

6. Future Agenda Items

Vice Mayor Janik would like to receive updates on the release of the new brand.

Adjournment 5:02 p.m.

Councilwoman Linda Milhaven moved to adjourn, Councilwoman Whitehead seconded. Motions carried 3/0.

 Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Community and Economic Development Administration at (480) 312-2459. Requests should be made 24 hours in advance or as early as possible to allow time to arrange accommodation. For TTY users, the Arizona Relay Service (1-800-367-8939) may contact Community and Economic Development Administration at (480) 312-2459.