



County Economic Opportunity Board

March 20, 2025

3:30 p.m.

<47 South Main, Council Chambers (3rd floor)>

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome & Roll Call

Chairman Craig Smith called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm. Roll Call was taken showing Craig Smith, John Perez, Stephanie Bagwell and Tyson Hamilton (online). Brittany Lopez joined the meeting at 3:36. Also present was County Councilman Jared Hamner; Ryan Englund, Better City; Jill McIntyre, Director of Tourism, Tooele County Chamber; Jess Clifford, Small Business Development Center Director; Rachelle Custer, Tooele County Community Development Director; Stephanie Eastburn, Tooele County Community Development.

2. Meeting Minutes

A. February 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION AND VOTE

Agenda Attachments

1. [CEO Board Meeting Minutes February 20, 2025.pdf](#)

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2025 meeting by Stephanie Bagwell. 2nd by Chairman Craig Smith. All board members present in favor.

3. Better City Economic Development Report

Ryan Englund stated that they've been working on a renewable energy project. Councilman Hamner stated we have an opportunity and we've been asked by our national delegation to prepare something. We've set up a meeting with our Secretary of Energy of the United States. They feel like they have a bipartisan agreement to look at and entertain nuclear power plants in the United States. We are constantly in need of power. Craig asked if it would be large or small scale. Councilman Hamner stated that it doesn't take up a lot of land but produces a lot of power.

Ryan stated that there is a lot of opportunity for renewable energy in Tooele County. Along I-80 there is a lot of space. The only problem with wind and solar is it's intermittent. You may not get wind, and you may not get sun. Councilman Hamner stated we are not interested in taking more waste without having something that produces power.

4. Grants

A. Small Business Grant Checklist and Application

MOTION AND VOTE- application, checklist, and dates.

Agenda Attachments

1. [2025 Small Business Grant Application-DRAFT.pdf](#)
2. [2025 Small Business Grant Checklist- DRAFT.pdf](#)

Brittany thanked the board for the feedback received through email on the grant application. Motion to approve the application by Brittany Lopez. Jess Clifford stated that typically a grant

application includes the reporting deadline and a statement that it is post-performance by the signature line and recommended adding a checkbox by where the applicant signs. Stephanie Bagwell stated that it does say that in the checklist. Jess stated then I think it's okay as long as the checklist is part of the application. Stephanie Eastburn stated the reporting date will be added and set for 6 months from the last day to submit for reimbursement. Stephanie Bagwell stated I will 2nd Brittany's motion. The motion passed with 4 in favor and John Perez opposed. John stated I don't like how the amount got changed and the economic impact. I don't really think anybody really understands what that means on the scoring.

Brittany stated I will look to the staff to guide us on setting the dates. Rachelle Custer stated the money is supposed to be spent by the end of July. Ryan Englund stated that it needs to be spent or encumbered. Craig stated I would say send it out as soon as possible. There was further discussion regarding the application and the deadlines. Jess suggested adding the award decision date to the application as well.

Brittany suggested having the application deadline be April 30th and then meeting to review the applications on May 1st. Craig suggested having the deadline be April 28th.

Craig Smith made a motion to set the dates as follows: the application deadline be April 28th at 5 pm, schedule a meeting to review them on May 1st, have them ready for the County Council to review on May 6th, and the application window will open Monday [March 24th]. 2nd by Brittany Lopez. All in favor.

Chairman Smith added a discussion item.

Brittany Lopez gave an update on the Economic Development landing webpage. She stated our IT department is working on building the site. It will be its own independent site. Our hope is that we can utilize the resources from Better City and Jess [Clifford]. We are happy to host it, and we can all work together to make sure everything stays updated. We will give this group a demo and ask for your feedback. I will request that it be put on the agenda further down the road.

Brittany stated that the state is offering training for this board. Rachelle stated that James Dixon will be sending out a link to attend virtually. The training is on April 10th. It is being put on by the State Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

Councilman Hamner stated the Governor's Office wants every county/city to have an Economic Master Plan. We have one that is about 5-6 years old, so it needs to be updated. They'd like to send out a template of what they're looking for. EDCUtah looks at it constantly. We'd like to have everybody participate and have them all in there for Erda, Tooele, Grantsville, etc. so they're not looking at a bunch of different plans. Brittany asked if they are looking to hire someone to pull it together. Councilman Hamner stated that once we see it we'll review and see if we want to hire someone. Brittany stated there's a grant opportunity that could help with this. John Perez stated that Psomas is a company that offers discounts on plans like that.

John Perez mentioned some projects that are looking to come to Tooele to Lakeview Business Park. One is a drone manufacturing firm that likes the proximity to Dugway and Salt Lake International Airport.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Stephanie Bagwell. Time of adjournment was 4:12 pm.