



APPROVED: October 22, 2014

CITY OF ALBANY  
INDUSTRY REQUEST COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE  
Calapooia Room  
Wednesday, September 24, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilors Floyd Collins, Rich Kellum, Dick Olsen

Absent: None

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

There was no business from the public.

Reports

*Committee report – discussions with industry*

*Staff report – discussions with industry*

Councilor Rich Kellum referred to the request from Albany industry for funds for a work force development program through Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC, and the list of program requirements submitted by LBCC. After talking with people in local industry, he thinks that the list from LBCC is a wish list as opposed to a needs list. From his conversations, he believes that industry's greatest needs are an x-ray system and a titanium welding system. He suggested that the Subcommittee recommend that the City assist only with the most needed items. He also suggested that the assistance could be in the form of a loan and that LBCC could repay that from income from tuition and fees.

City Manager Wes Hare clarified that LBCC is going out for a specific bond measure and that money to repay the bond would come from taxation. He thought that LBCC would probably say the cost of running the program is higher than what is generated in revenue and that there is no revenue source to repay a loan from the City.

Kellum said another possibility is that the City could agree to fund only portions of the request. Hare said there are many ways the economic development money could be spent to benefit the community. He suggested that the next steps might be to communicate that there are some concerns about the size of the request and to try to come to some meeting of the minds that accomplishes what all of the parties would like to see – the money invested in a way that results in local workers being trained for jobs that are available locally.

Councilor Dick Olsen said he would prefer to loan the economic development funds rather than give them away.

Councilor Floyd Collins said he would like to see the request approved at some level. He would like to have a frank conversation with industry and LBCC representatives. He wants industry to be able to build their employment base and the City to be seen as assisting in that.

City Attorney Jim Delapoer suggested the potential of a joint meeting of the full City Council, industry, and LBCC representatives. The meeting could be held at a neutral location with a less structured format and perhaps utilizing a moderator. This could be a discussion-only meeting with the idea of getting to something that all the parties could support. Hare agreed with the concept and suggested that could be a recommendation of the Subcommittee to the City Council.

Olsen said the full Council should make a decision as to whether it supports the request at all and whether it wants to have the joint meeting.

Assistant City Manager/Public Works & Community Development Director Mark Shepard wondered whether industry has communicated effectively with LBCC regarding their needs. Kellum further reviewed his conversations with industry reps and said he felt that LBCC presented a list of things they needed for the program as opposed to what is needed by industry.

Economic Development & Urban Renewal Director Kate Porsche commented that LBCC representatives have been very good to work with and she believes there has been communication between LBCC and industry reps. She supports the idea of getting everyone around the table, and she urged that Council go into the discussion thinking of LBCC as a partner.

Additional discussion followed regarding timing and process, as well as potential meeting locations and structures.

It was agreed that staff will write a summary report for approval by the Subcommittee and then presentation to the City Council. The report will include a summary of Kellum's conversation with industry representatives and the idea that there may be an ability to scale down the request. If there are four votes in support of the basic request, Council will be asked if they want to have a meeting of all of the parties. If the answer is yes, staff will reach out to industry and LBCC representatives and look for a meeting location and a moderator.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There was no additional business from the Committee.

#### NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is to be determined.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on File*

Teresa Nix  
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

*Signature on File*

Wes Hare  
City Manager