

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

April 10, 2012

Meeting Summary

Chair Beard called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. All members present except Lane.

I. Commerce Lexington Quarterly Report

Gina Greathouse provided the quarterly economic development report from Commerce Lexington. She discussed the recent expansion of KD Analytical and the Carrus-Mio startup.

Commerce Lexington cited data that 874 jobs were created through the efforts of the Bluegrass Business Development Partnership (BBDP) efforts or 92% of its annual goal of 949 new jobs in the first 3 quarters of the year. The BBDP endeavors also led to over \$ 38 million of new capital investment.

Ms. Greathouse also discussed the Lexington Venture Club entrepreneurial efforts.

Ms. Greathouse also invited Councilmember's to join Commerce Lexington on its key employer visits. She also announced that Commerce Lexington added Ms. Margaret Ridley to its economic development effort.

Tyrone Tyra, Vice President for Community & Minority Business discussed the minority business accelerator efforts.

Pamela Trautner, Executive Director of the Business & Education Network discussed continuing workforce development issues.

Councilmember Kay asked about the job creation data; he asked about average wage data and distribution of wages. He also asked about the wages paid by Triton Container.

Councilmember Blues asked if benefits were included in the wages data.

2. Pedestrian Oriented Business District

Councilmember Lawless introduced the subject and called on Chris King.

Mr. King explained the proposal to allow Council to waive up to 100% of all required off-street parking in certain areas.

On a motion by Councilmember Lawless, second Councilmember Gorton, the committee voted to docket the ordinance on an 8-4 vote (Stinnett, Crosbie, Martin, and Farmer-No).

3. Lexington Parking Authority agreement for the LFUCG Parking Garages

General Services Commissioner Sally Hamilton discussed the proposed parking garages agreement between LFUCG and the Lexington Parking Authority. She addressed Council questions from the February 7 presentation regarding cash flow and employee parking.

Regarding cash flow Ms. Hamilton provided data that indicated that the current annual revenue base of \$ 1.3 million and the new revenue generated revenue of \$ 347,000, along with annual operational savings of \$ 150,000 will more than off set annual debt service and provide a projected net cash flow of \$ 570,000 for FY 13 and \$ 665,000 in FY 14 for these parking facilities.

Ms. Hamilton stated that the Administration had re-thought its original employee parking proposal and was now proposing that LFUCG continue to subsidize employee for at least 5 years until 2017 and the Parking Authority will continue its reduce rate for LFUCG parking needs. By 2017 LFUCG will re examine its long term parking needs and develop an employee parking strategy. Ms. Hamilton stated that the PA will also report annually to the Council.

Councilmember Martin discussed concerns about a long term lease agreements and provisions that the leases are not at current market levels. He suggested that any multi year lease be brought back before Council.

Councilmember Blues asked about new increased parking rates for evenings and weekends.

Councilmember Stinnett discussed the employee parking arrangement. He suggested that the 5 year limit be removed and just that the employee parking strategy be re evaluated by the 5th year in 2017.

Councilmember Kay asked about special event parking rates.

Gary Means of the Lexington Parking Authority addressed new parking rates for evenings, weekends and special events.

There were no motions or other action taken on this topic.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.