

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

September 5, 2023

The Economic Development Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the board room at 120 North Center Street, on September 5, 2023, at 7:33 a.m.

### **BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT**

Michelle Genereux – Vice Chair  
Brian Campbell  
Bill Honsaker  
Amanda Kay  
Laura Snow

### **BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT**

Rich Adams (Excused)  
Kathleen “KJ” Jolivette (Excused)

### **STAFF PRESENT**

William Jabjiniak  
Jaye O’Donnell  
Maribeth Smith  
Jack Vincent

### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Giles  
Chris Brady  
Sonny Cave\*  
Sally Harrison  
Ed Carr\*  
Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh  
Jennifer Zonneveld – Chair

### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

### **GUESTS**

Jim Kasselmann  
Vic Narusis, ACA

(\*Participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment)

### 1. Chair’s Call to Order

Board Chair Jennifer Zonneveld called the September 5, 2023, meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Board to order at 7:33 a.m.

### 2. Items from Citizens Present

There were no items from citizens present.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2023, Meeting (Action Item)

It was moved by Board Member Bill Honsaker, seconded by Board Member Laura Snow, that the minutes from the August 2, 2023, Economic Development Advisory Board meeting be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Campbell-Genereux-Honsaker-Kay-Snow

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Adams-Jolivette

Carried unanimously.

4. Introduction of New Board Member

Board Member Ed Carr, Senior Director and General Manager at Dexcom, introduced himself and shared his aerospace background.

5. Recognition of Former Board Member

Economic Development Director Bill Jabjiniak shared former Board Member Jim Kasselmann's history with the Board and thanked him for his service. Mr. Kasselmann appreciated the opportunity to become part of Mesa's community and thanked Mayor John Giles and City Manager Chris Brady for their support of Dexcom and leadership.

6. Hear from Mayor Giles regarding his economic development vision for the next 16 months

Chair Zonneveld thanked Mayor John Giles for joining the Board to discuss his economic development vision. Mayor Giles shared that the City's investment in infrastructure has set the stage to attract Apple, Google, Meta, Boeing, Gulfstream, and Virgin Galactic to name a few. Mayor, Mr. Brady and Mr. Jabjiniak recently toured the 440-acre Meta facility under construction in southeast Mesa. Under roof is the equivalent of 50 NFL football fields and currently employs 3,000 people during construction.

On a local level the city invested in education and workforce, championing the Mesa College Promise Program. Mesa Community Colleges have collaborated with employers to tailor workforce development programs where necessary. The ASU Mix Center served as a catalyst for the additional development seen downtown. Mesa's aerospace industry is strong thanks in part to Falcon Field Airport and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. The semiconductor industry supply chain has also invested in Mesa – Benchmark Electronics, Fujifilm, JX Nippon, Nippon Express, and DSV.

Mayor Giles shared that he is accompanying the Arizona Commerce Authority on a trade trip to Taiwan and Korea. Additionally, the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation named Mayor Giles to the federal 23-member committee charged with guiding the widespread adoption of electric vehicles across the country. He shared that Mesa is in a strategic place to continue to multiply and connect with the electric vehicle industry. Initiatives such as the Climate Action Plan, Trees Are Cool campaign, and high-speed internet expansion are also key priorities.

Board Member Natascha Ovando-Karadsheh stated that there had been a lot of negative press nationally about water in Arizona. Mesa has a unique water portfolio and is in a great position, but without getting ahead of the negative press we're at a disadvantage. Mayor Giles agreed and shared that Mr. Brady is working on a message to make others aware of our diverse portfolio of water resources. Ms. Ovando-Karadsheh commented that no one is leading the conservation message in the greater community. Mr. Brady replied that an outdoor watering campaign with incentives to convert irrigation to xeriscape has received a good response.

Board Member Brian Campbell commented that the Board has discussed the pursuit of an initiative around the advanced manufacturing supply chain. He inquired if the city has the bandwidth or capacity to pursue this. Mayor Giles replied that this should be a focus because of the employment opportunities that it presents. He also shared that LG is a significant consumer of natural gas and the city controls that

area for providing natural gas. Mr. Campbell asked how this board can assist city management. Mayor Giles replied that as leaders in our community we must keep the direction facing forward. Mesa has been described as a very conservative community of which we're proud of. But at the same time, we need to be progressive and embrace change.

7. Hear a presentation on the Arizona Commerce Authority and state incentives

Executive Vice President Vic Narusis, Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), oversees their domestic and international operations on the attraction and expansion side. A presentation was displayed regarding ACA's mission to grow and strengthen Arizona's economy by recruiting out-of-state companies, working with existing companies to grow, and partnering with entrepreneurs to create new jobs and businesses. ACA represents the State of Arizona for all incentives such as quality job creation, property taxes, TPT exemption and research and development. They are 100% funded by the State. Arizona's strengths include industry clusters, a growing population/workforce, and world-class education institutions. ACA services include site selection, public relations and media amplification, stakeholder engagement, supply chain solutions, manufacturing assistance, market analysis, workforce coordination, and utility partner introductions. The ACA has five existing international offices.

Ms. Snow asked what role healthcare plays within the broader supply chain concept. Mr. Narusis replied that it does since understanding our health care system is extremely important to those companies. Ms. Snow shared that Banner Health has been heavily involved in educating TSMC families about American healthcare.

8. Director's Report

Mr. Jabjiniak shared that Steve Henderson, CMC Steel, announced his retirement and has resigned from the Board. Bill thanked those members who were part of the reaccreditation site visit, stating that it went very well. On August 29, 2023, the state land parcel at the northwest corner of Ellsworth and Warner Roads was auctioned and purchased by a data center user. The Mesa Chamber of Commerce bus tour is scheduled for October 4, 2023. Finally, Bill shared that the economic development offices of Mesa, Chandler, and Gilbert recently collaborated to brainstorm opportunities for the employees laid off by General Motors Chandler Innovation Hub.

9. Other Business

The next Economic Development Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2023.

10. Adjournment

Without objection, the Economic Development Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Submitted by:



William J. Jabjiniak  
Economic Development Department Director