

**Greensburg City Council
Special Council Meeting
July 12, 2012
CITY HALL**

Mayor Bob Dixon called the Special Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All Council Members were present.

Dixon welcomed Wes Jurey from the Center for Innovation (CFI) in Arlington, TX. Jurey gave an overview of his history with economic development. A Power Point presentation on who CFI is, how they were created, what they do, who their partners are, and the opportunities that are available through their organization was given. Jurey spoke about retaining wealth within the region it was created in, creating new industry, and understanding the difference between accomplishment (i.e. a title for your City) and impact (i.e. creating a sustainable economy in your community). The CFI model for economic development is something that they would like to prove effective in communities of every size. CFI has sought a partnership with the City of Greensburg, who will be their smallest municipal partner, because of the commitment they have observed and the opportunity to show how rural American can develop.

Dixon opened the meeting for questions. The discussion consisted of a range of questions on the opportunity for a bio fuel facility, what the City's commitment to the process would be, to what extent would the community be involved in selecting industry, what a timeline would look like, and what potential the City has for a viable industry. Jurey explained that bringing industry will not only create jobs, but add significantly to the tax roll and will create an opportunity for builders to begin filling in the housing gap. How quickly a partner moves forward in the process is at the partner's discretion. The partnership is for 5 years; however, if the City does not feel that the partnership is working out, they are not bound to remain a partner. Jurey has seen that when jobs are created, other things will begin to cluster around the area, creating a growth pattern. CFI examines in depth the local and regional assets before recommending specific industry. Conversations will be held with the Council, Chamber, Economic Development, and the community to see what opportunities would best fit the community. Currently CFI has 23 affiliated partners. They will reach their maximum of 40 by the end of the year. Besides the contract amount, additional expense is up to the partner individually. CFI will be in the community more than Staff will need to travel through this process. CFI is not dependent on Federal Funding; therefore, upcoming elections will have no bearing. An exchange of data and studies of community assets and shortcomings is already in the process through the grant letter for unmanned aircraft that was approved July 2, 2012.


At 7:55 p.m. Dixon declared a 5 minute recess. Council resumed open session at 8:00 p.m. to consider a partnership agreement between the City of Greensburg and CFI.

Butler stated that the \$25,000 required for the partnership was a gamble. Trummel and Christenson voiced their desire to invest in the process. Goodman preferred to delay a decision until after the Council retreat that is being planned. Jungemann felt that the City should invest, stating that we do not have the ability to do the research that CFI has done. Trummel made a motion to approve the

partnership agreement between the City of Greensburg and CFI. Jungemann seconded. Motion passed 4-1 (Goodman).

Dixon declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.


Robert A. Dixon, Mayor


Christy Pyatt, City Clerk