

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACTIONS FOR THE CONTINUED APPLICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE OAK RIDGE GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT, INDICATION OF THE TRANSFER TO THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE AS PRIMARY SPONSORING PARTY FROM METROPOLITAN KNOXVILLE AIRPORT AUTHORITY (MKAA), AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTIONS TO PURSUE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA), TENNESSEE AERONAUTICS DIVISION (TAC), AND APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT.

WHEREAS, by Resolution 7-71-09, City Council supported the efforts of the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) to study the feasibility of bringing a general aviation airport to Oak Ridge to be located on property which was either currently owned by CROET or slated to be transferred to CROET from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), with no intent by CROET to request funding from the City; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 6-49-2012, City Council supported the creation of a general aviation airport at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), identified the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MKAA) as the lead agency with situs support from CROET, specified an intent of the City to relinquish any claim of ownership to the proposed aviation facilities, and specified the local funding match would be provided by MKAA; and

WHEREAS, through recent meetings between the City Manager and MKAA, the City has been advised that MKAA has now reached the end of the planning phase of the new airport development project, and, it is determined in the best interest of the development and operation of the proposed airport to designate the City as the sponsoring agent and affirmed by reciprocal action supporting such by the MKAA Board in August, 2020 in support of this change, and

WHEREAS, City Council finds the creation of a general aviation airport at ETTP to be a benefit to local economic development; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$22 million in funding is currently available and allocated for the airport project through the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Tennessee Department of Transportation Aviation Division's Aeronautics Economic Development Fund, as well as in-kind funding from DOE and CROET for the value of land to be transferred at no cost for this project, and an additional \$11 million in State funding is contingent upon approval by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); and

WHEREAS, for the project to proceed with the City as the responsible party for the airport, the FAA requires the transfer of sponsorship from MKAA to the City; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to authorize the City Manager to continue the development of a general aviation airport at ETTP utilizing current existing funding, seeking various approvals to reach a capital constitution stage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

That City Council hereby renews the City's support for the creation of a general aviation airport at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) and expresses the City's intent to become the responsible sponsoring party for the airport project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to facilitate the development of a general aviation airport at ETPP, including the following actions:

- Execute the appropriate legal instruments with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to request the transfer of sponsorship from the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MKAA) to the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
- Initiate the transfer of existing and future allocated funds from state and federal sources from MKAA to the City as the beneficiary of said funds.
- Request, and accept, no-cost land transfers from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET), and other private landowners for the necessary real property to operate a general aviation airport at ETPP.
- Create a new department at the City, to be called the Aviation Department, which department's focus shall be to develop the airport and shall report directly to the City Manager.
- Submit the Cost Benefit Analysis of this project in conjunction with the President of MKAA.
- Support changes of federal and state documents to recognize the City of Oak Ridge as principals on this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any commitment of City funds in excess of the City Manager's signature authority shall require additional City Council action and approval for such matters as contracts, bids, and in-kind service match.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution supersedes Resolution 7-71-09 and Resolution 6-49-2012 to the extent of any conflicts, specifically the City's original intent to not contribute funding for this project, the City's intent to relinquish ownership of the airport facilities, and MKAA's intent to pursue this project as the sponsoring organization with the FAA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and/or City Manager are hereby authorized to execute the appropriate legal instruments to accomplish the same.

This the 21st day of July 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:


Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney


Warren L. Gooch, Mayor


Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk