

***City of Rowlett***  
**Economic Development Advisory Board**

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

9:30 A.M.

*Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, 4418 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas 75088*

***Meeting Minutes***

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Chairman Drew Howard called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:36 A.M. on February 20, 2018 at the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce 4418 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas. In attendance: Tammy Dana-Bashian, Drew Howard, Barry Young, Justin Blackburn, Whitney Laning, Michael Gallops, Lawrence Glick, Eva Hummel, Elaine Ritchie, Brian Funderburk, Jerry Johnson, Jim Grabenhorst, Shawn Poe, Joey Grisham, Katie Rose Hargreaves and Susan Nix.

**2. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 16, 2018 MEETING.**

A motion was made by Barry Young and seconded by Whitney Laning to approve the January 16, 2018 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. PRESENTATION ON ROCKWALL ISD – DR. GENE BURTON COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY.**

Jim Grabenhorst introduced Sherri Franza, former Rockwall EDC President and member of the Rockwall Independent School District Bond Planning Committee. Sherri provided some history behind the vision and implementation of the new Dr. Gene Burton College & Career Academy and introduced Allison Belliveau, the new Executive Director. Allison gave a presentation and highlighted the many offerings and programs that the Academy will offer students and the community as a whole. Part of the Academy will be for high school students and the other portion will offer college courses through Collin College and a 4-year college that has not yet been named. The Academy will open in the Fall of 2018.

#### **4. RECEIVE LBJ EAST/I-635 AND I-30 TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATE**

Shawn Poe, Public Works Director, provided an update on I-30 and other regional transportation projects and how the recent discussions surrounding the LBJ East funding shortfall could affect the timing of the project. First, he explained how transportation funds are distributed through the regional organization known as the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)/Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) for projects in the 16-county region. Shawn also mentioned that he was a member of the COG's Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC).

He stated that there is a \$653 million shortage for the LBJ East Project and that the RTC discussed using three other regional transportation projects as collateral: US 80; I-35 in Fort Worth; and I-30 in Dallas, Rockwall and Hunt counties. He said that the RTC did not make any final decisions and that the matter would be discussed at their March meeting. The City of Rowlett will be considering a resolution to support the project as well as the Chamber of Commerce. Lastly, he said that the environmental work for I-30 bridges crossing Lake Ray Hubbard should be completed this year and that bidding would likely take place in 2021 although he is hoping it can be expedited.

#### **5. RECEIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE.**

Jim Grabenhorst, Director of Economic Development, first welcomed Joey Grisham back to the City. He then provided an update on the Village of Rowlett project including the Library. He said that construction should begin this week on the Library and it should be completed by early summer. He said that the Village of Rowlett was already over 50% occupied on residential units and that an announcement would likely be made soon on the first restaurant going into the commercial space. Next, Katie Rose Hargreaves, Economic Development Specialist, provided an update on the East Branch/PGBT extension and provided some handouts on the project. She stated that it is a partnership between the North Texas Toll Authority (NTTA) and TxDOT and that construction funding had not yet been identified for the project. Katie Rose also provided a copy of the latest department "By the Numbers" monthly report.

EDAB member Johnson questioned the latest monthly sales tax decline. Jim Grabenhorst explained that the lower than expected sales tax numbers are a result of construction sales versus traditional retail. He said that there was a major jump in construction sales tax purchases related to the tornado rebuilding efforts that had taken place over the past few years. Mr. Grabenhorst also stated that traditional retail sales were on pace to surpass last year's numbers. Next, Mr. Grabenhorst updated the Board on the Baylor Scott & White Lakepointe expansion project and the May EDAB meeting would be held on-site for a tour and an update on the expansion project. Lastly, there was some

discussion of the Collin County east/west transportation projects being discussed as a way to relieve traffic on US 75. City Manager Brian Funderburk said that the City Council had received some presentations on the proposed routes and that ongoing discussions were occurring with many cities in the region.

**6. RECEIVE CHAMBER/CHAMBER FOUNDATION UPDATE.**

Whitney Laning, Chairman of the Chamber Board, provided the Chamber update. He stated that he requested a special Board meeting to pass a resolution supporting funding for the I-30 Transportation project. He also stated that the Chamber Board just held their monthly meeting and had appointed standing committees including Economic Development (Eva Hummel will be the liaison for the EDAB). He then said that the Board was finalizing their five-year strategic plan and just finalized their mission/values/vision statements.

Eva Hummel provided the Chamber Foundation update to the Board. The Chamber Foundation has a balance of \$51,000. She mentioned that they still have two outstanding checks from Rebuild Rowlett, leaving a current balance of \$19,135.00. She gave a brief overview of some new programs that were being discussed during the last Foundation meeting.

**RECEIVE GISD UPDATE.**

Lawrence Glick, President of GISD Board, provided the GISD update. Mr. Glick announced they will not be holding the board election because one of the candidates dropped out. The remaining candidates will run unopposed. He mentioned that the Rowlett High School Theatre Company trip to Scotland had been funded for \$75,000 by the Board. He stated that this is one of the largest arts festivals in the world and that the trip would take place in August. He then discussed safety measures in schools, saying that Garland ISD had added 13 SRO officers and added several safety features from bond funding. He stated that Garland ISD was very proactive on safety and said that the Superintendent, Dr. Ricardo Lopez, had just met with the Chiefs of Police for Rowlett, Sachse, and Garland.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND/OR STAFF MAY MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LOCAL CIVIC EVENTS. NO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS NOR TAKE ANY ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Whitney Laning announced that early voting starts today.

The Chamber is hosting a Meet and Greet with Texas House of Representative Districts 112 and 113 on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 7 PM.

The Chamber will hold its next monthly membership luncheon on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Chamber is hosting a Texas Hold'em Tournament on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Brian Funderburk announced the opening of the Scentral Bark Dog Park being constructed in Herfurth Park will be pushed to Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> due to rain.

**7. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MAY REQUEST TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS. NO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS ANY OF THE REQUESTED SUBJECTS UNTIL SUCH MATTER HAS BEEN PROPERLY PLACED ON A POSTED AGENDA.**

Re-visit updates on I-30 project after RTC meetings have been held.  
There was also a request to receive Bayside updates.

**8. ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Drew Howard at 11:04 A.M.



Drew Howard, Chairman



Jim Grabenhorst, Assigned City Staff



Date Approved