

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Rowlett Chamber
8:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Mick Donnelly, called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. on March 19, 2024. In attendance: Chairman Mick Donnelly, City Councilmember Debra Shinder, GISD Board Member Larry Glick, Chamber Board Chair Stephen Causey, Chamber President & CEO Sharon Mayer, City Designees Michael Weaver, Rhonda Wolfe and Tim Abrams. Staff: Assistant City Manager Kristoff Bauer, Director of Economic and Community Engagement Brittney Farr, and Assistant Director of Economic Development Charles Mazarakes. Absent was Chamber Foundation Chairperson Tori Owen, Mayor Blake Margolis, Senior Administrative Assistant Claudia Frausto and City Manager David Hall.

2. PUBLIC INPUT IN ANY AGENDA ITEM.

None.

3. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 MEETING.

A motion was made by Michael Weaver and seconded by Rhonda Wolfe to approve the February 20, 2024 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. BOARD MEMBERS SHARE TOPICS AND IDEAS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

None.

5. City Knowledge and Learning Items

- a) **Rowlett Chamber/Chamber Foundation Update:** Chamber Board Chair Stephen Causey announced no new updates, last month's updates still current.
- b) **GISD Update:** Larry Glick, GISD Board member provided the GISD update, including news regarding an interview of former Assistant Secretary of Education Dr. Diane Ravitch. Mr. Glick discussed the beginning of budget season for the district, as well GISD's interview for District of the Year. Mr. Glick mentioned the potential for the GISD natatorium to be named after him and closed with confirming the availability of the planetarium for the EDAB meeting in in May.

c) **Economic Development Department Update:** Brittney Farr, Director of Economic and Community Engagement, BRE visits to grow, Brittney started with the business retention (BRE) update and new business information.

Charles Mazarakes informed the board January sales tax 12.8% below forecast and 15% below the same month last year. Staff is requesting additional information from the Comptroller collections in the amount of \$135,340 have likely contributed to sales tax reductions in the January.

Brittney followed with the By the Numbers for the month of February with four (4) new business, ten (10) certificate of occupancy, one (1) new commercial building permits worth \$7,152,756,756 and five (5) existing commercial building/remodel permits worth \$5,980,028.38. The economic development website totaled 15,251 hits while creating 24 new jobs and performed six (4) BRE visits.

Ms. Farr gave the downtown update including upcoming events Pup-A-Palooza, Easter Eggstravaganza, Total Eclipse Watch Party, and the Spring Farmers and Crafts Market, starting Thursday, April 4 and every following Thursdays through June 27. Ms. Farr noted the next public open house for the Downtown Strategic Plan will take place on April 22 at the RCC.

Finally, Ms. Farr covered Sapphire Bay updates and the upcoming groundbreaking for Jackson Shaw's Lakeview Business District on April 10, 2024.

d) Knowledge Topic – Ross Altobelli Community Development Update – Canceled

6. 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.


- Taste and Trade Event on March 25, 2024 5:30pm – 8:00pm
- Bidding presentations shown to city council meeting for Police Department and Animal Shelter March 18, 2024
- Free Adoptions at the Rowlett Animal Shelter 4402 Industrial St, Rowlett, TX 75088 due to shelter being at capacity.
- Herfurth Elementary celebrates their National Blue Ribbon Award Ceremony March 22, 2024

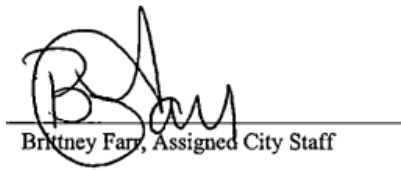
7. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MAY REQUEST TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDA MEETINGS. NO MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS ANY OF THE REQUESTED SUBJECTS UNTIL SUCH MATTER HAS BEEN PROPERLY PLACED ON A POSTED AGENDA.

- Larry Glick requested an updated on plans to extend Geroge Bush toll to 20 Hwy and 80 Hwy
- Brittney Farr listed persons of beneficially strong economic and chamber value for possible speakers for future EDAB meeting
- North Shore update/tour requested previously by Chairman Mick Donnelly at the June 2023 meeting which team is working on.
- Incentives policy updates and changes to be added to a future agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:18 A.M.


Mick Donnelly, Chairman


Brittney Farr, Assigned City Staff

4/16/2024

Date Approved