

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

8:30 A.M.

Electronically by Zoom Meeting ID #844 5906 0690

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Vice Chairman Mick Donnelly called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 8:33 A.M. on June 16, 2020 held via teleconference. In attendance remotely: Tammy Dana-Bashian, Shelia Hair, Mick Donnelly, Chris Kizziar, Michael Gallops, Robert LaCroix, Barry Young, Larry Glick, Brian Funderburk, Jim Grabenhorst, Lexie Woodward, Susan Nix and Jeremy McConnell (Oncor).

A short discussion ensued recognizing the contributions of Drew Howard for his hard work and dedication to the Rowlett community and to the Economic Development Advisory Board. Condolences for his passing were shared, Drew will be missed by many.

2. PUBLIC INPUT ON ANY AGENDAY ITEM.

There were no speakers.

3. CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 18, 2019 MEETING.

A motion was made by Robert LaCroix and seconded by Sheila Hair to approve the February 18, 2020 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no topics discussed.

5. BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION (BRE) UPDATE.

Lexie Woodward provided an update on BRE activities, including those related to COVID-19 and those unrelated to COVID-19. Regarding activities related to COVID-19, Lexie presented the main takeaways from the first and second COVID-19 Economic Impact Survey sent out to businesses, the COVID-19 webpages created to assist Rowlett business owners and managers; workers displaced by COVID-19; and the Shop Local campaign that encouraged the public to shop Rowlett businesses. Regarding business retention and expansion activities unrelated to COVID-19, Lexie presented a summary on businesses that have opened, businesses that have closed, businesses that have changed locations, and various items she assisted local businesses with.

6. CITY KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING ITEMS.

a. Economic Development Department Update: Jim Grabenhorst provided an update on Economic Development Department activities, including its participation in the Reopen Rowlett Responsibly Committee, and the ongoing COVID-19 efforts to identify resources in partnership with the Rowlett Chamber. Jim then provided an update on Sapphire Bay, which included a drone video of on-site infrastructure improvements currently underway. Jim then discussed the North Shore district and provided updates on various marketing and recruitment efforts currently underway. He continued by providing information on March and April sales tax data in relationship to the fiscal year forecast and revised COVID-19 forecast. In addition, Jim mentioned that an updated Village of Rowlett Downtown

b. Rowlett Chamber/Chamber Foundation Update: Michael Gallops provided the Rowlett Chamber update. He stated that the Chamber office reopened on May 18th and they are having their first live event next Friday night. Most other events have been postponed. He stated that they have been working with Economic Development and sharing information with their members. Sheila Hair added that they will be spotlighting businesses and their new sponsorship guide will be sent out in the June newsletter. Michael provided updates related to the first phase of the ROBUST Grant funded by the City. Chris Kizziar provided the update for the Chamber Foundation. He mentioned they issued three (3) sign grants since the last meeting. He also mentioned they are in the process of issuing their first 5 scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

c. GISD Update: Larry Glick gave the GISD update. He mentioned all graduations were held and successful. He stated they will not be having a bond election this November. He discussed potential future changes coming to the school campuses as a result of COVID-19.

d. Knowledge Topic – Water Discussion in North Texas: Brian Funderburk gave a presentation regarding the North Texas Municipal Water District. He gave a brief history of the City’s relationship with them. He presented information regarding water sources and history on the Zebra Mussels, specifically how it relates to our rates. He discussed a coalition that was built by the City of Richardson along with other member cities, in order to be recognized within North Texas Municipal Water District. He briefly explained the “take or pay” concept and how it affects the City’s rates. He mentioned that the rates should not increase next year.

7. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

For the office of chair, Tammy Dana-Bashian nominated Mick Donnelly, seconded by Barry Young. The vote passed unanimously. For the office of Vice-Chair, Tammy Dana-Bashian nominated Sheila Hair, seconded by Mick Donnelly. The vote passed unanimously.

8. 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.

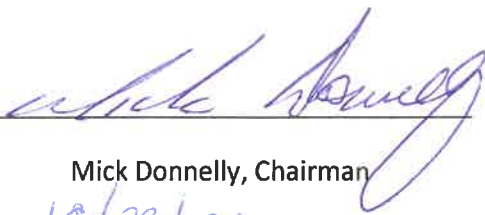
There were no public announcements.


9. 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.

Mick Donnelly requested to follow up with the Chamber regarding the data received back from the surveys.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mick Donnelly at approximately 10:42 A.M.


Mick Donnelly, Chairman
10/29/20


Jim Grabenhorst, Assigned City Staff

Date Approved