

City of Rowlett
Economic Development Advisory Board

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

8:30 A.M.

Electronically by Zoom Meeting ID #811 9636 5234

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Mick Donnelly called the Rowlett Economic Development Advisory Board meeting to order at 8:32 A.M. on July 21, 2020 held via teleconference. In attendance: 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, Jeremy McConnell (Oncor) and Chris Coble.

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 Tammy Dana-Bashian and seconded by Barry Young to approve the June 16, 2020 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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

There was discussion regarding an uprise of developers preferring Flex Space vs Retail Space, and types of space needed for small business growth in the City. There was also some discussion regarding the COVID-19 impact on sales tax for Rowlett and other Cities.

5. BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION (BRE) UPDATE.

Lexie Woodward provided an update on BRE activities, both those related and unrelated to COVID-19. Regarding activities related to COVID-19, Lexie reported the main takeaways from the second COVID-19 Business Impact Survey and that she contacted the

individual survey respondents who said they wouldn't be able to operate their business much longer. Also, Lexie sent an email to all businesses regarding the Dallas County Emergency Business Assistance Program (EBAP). She briefly went through the COVID-19 Business and Workforce resource webpages as well as the Shop Local efforts undertaken by the department. Regarding business retention and expansion activities unrelated to COVID-19, Lexie reported three new businesses opening, one business changing locations within Rowlett, that she had three in-person BRE visits, one over-the-phone BRE visit, and assisted two businesses via email.

6. CITY KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING ITEMS.

a. Economic Development Department Update: Jim Grabenhorst provided an update on Economic Development Department activities. He presented information regarding sales tax revenue. Jim then gave a quick update on Sapphire Bay, including presenting a link that provides a live camera of the development in progress. He stated that the link has been posted on social media and there have been a significant number of web views to the City's Sapphire Bay project webpage it's embedded in. He added that the IH-30 improvements are on schedule and TXDOT is scheduled in March 2021 to award the bid/contract for phase 1 of the project. Chris Coble with Black Label gave an update on North Shore. He explained some of the marketing techniques and stated that they are in process of launching social media pages. Chris explained they are targeting specific companies and discussed current pursuits. He talked about how North Shore messaging is pivoting due to COVID-19, and finished by going through North Shore next steps.

b. Rowlett Chamber/Chamber Foundation Update: Sheila Hair provided the Rowlett Chamber update. She stated that the Chamber was able to hold their Board Meeting last week via Zoom and the updates included were partner updates, testimonials, and the Business of the Month. She stated they had the virtual 5K and it went well without any complications. Michael Gallops mentioned they are continuing to work with Economic Development to let businesses know about the potential funding sources available to them. He stated that Bee Hive memory facility has decided to proceed with their ground breaking ceremony but it will be limited to 10 people. Chris Kizziar provided the update for the Chamber Foundation. He said they finalized the scholarships to the graduating high school seniors. He also mentioned they are waiting on the next round of the ROBUST grant. He thanked Larry Glick for the school district's support of the Chamber Foundation.

c. GISD Update: Larry Glick gave the GISD update. He mentioned that the new approved school year calendar received rave reviews. The new calendar consists of a longer academic year with more intercessions throughout the year. He stated that the county extended the "on campus" start date until the day after Labor Day. School will still start

on August 10th but will be virtual. He discussed the steps that had to be taken in order to practice social distancing and to ensure that going forward all students had connectivity available to them. He briefly discussed the Tax Ratification planned for November and mentioned that the school district will not implement a tax increase this year.

d. Knowledge Topic – COVID-19: CARES Act Business Assistance Fund: Jim Grabenhorst provided an update regarding the COVID-19 CARES Act Business Assistance Fund. He discussed the first phase of the Robust grant and offered statistics for that program. He mentioned the latest Dallas County program will consist of phases. Jim gave a breakdown of the number of Rowlett businesses that received funding and which program provided the assistance. He discussed the Dallas County EBAP, including eligibility requirements and the procedural process for rounds one and two of the program. He mentioned that the status of the first two rounds were presented to Council at last night's meeting and it was decided by Council not to opt in for the third round. He also encouraged EDAB members to let businesses know to apply for the Dallas County Program and to watch for information on additional ROBUST funding. He stated there is still PPP funding available.

7. 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.

8. 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.

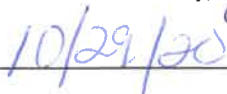
Larry Glick requested an update on the PGBT extension to I-20 to be on a future agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mick Donnelly at approximately 10:24 A.M.



Mick Donnelly, Chairman



Date Approved



Jim Grabenhorst, Assigned City Staff