

**Economic Development Retail Sales Tax Board
Minutes
April 3, 2025
6:30 p.m.**

The Economic Development Retail Sales Tax (EDRST) Board held a virtual meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2025. The meeting commenced at 6:40 pm and adjourned at 7:36 pm.

***The meeting did not initially have a quorum. The Mayor started with his updates before a quorum was realized at 6:40 p.m. The roll was called as follows:*

Voting Members Present:

Karen Bernstein
Cynthia Martin
Dr. Monica Stewart
Bobette Patton
Byron Price
Christina Dancy
Margaret Holly
Chair Brendan O'Brien

Voting Members Absent:

Council Liaison:

Mayor Terry Crow

Staff Present:

Brooke A. Sharp, Deputy City Manager/Dir. of Economic Development
Montez Miles, Economic Development Specialist

Others attending:

None

Minutes

Motioned by Margaret Holly, seconded by Byron Price and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes from October 10, 2024 and January 30, 2025.

Public Comments

There were none received.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Crow provided updates to the group on the upcoming election and the contents relevant to University City. He also stated that this time next year there would be 5 seats up on the City Council. He provided updates on the tree removal along Pershing at Forest Park Parkway, the floor buyout initiative, funding for the detention, the Seafood City site, and the University City Loop.

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp added an update about Economic Development Week and the U City Farmers Market.

Old Business

LSBD – FY24 Award for Expanded Outdoor Dining

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp introduced this agenda item, noting that in FY24, the city opened applications for EDRST funding and LSBD was awarded \$25,000 for expanded outdoor dining buildouts. She noted that LSBD has since voted to request that expanded outdoor dining be rescinded and they recommended that the \$25,000 be reallocated to the city to assist with removal of the barriers. Discussion was had on the topic.

Motioned by Bobette Patton, seconded by Margaret Holly and carried by voice vote to recommend the reallocation of the \$25,000 awarded to LSBD in fiscal year 2024 to cover any costs associated with removal of the expanded outdoor dining buildouts.

New Business

FY2026 EDRST Budget

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026. Discussion was had on the topic.

Motioned by Margaret Holly, seconded by Karen Bernstein and carried by voice vote to recommend to Council the approval of the FY26 Proposed Budget for EDRST.

Façade Improvement Applications – FY25

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp provided an overview of the Façade Improvement Program and introduced Economic Development Specialist Montez Miles to present the proposed projects for fiscal year 2025. Discussion was had on the program and the proposed projects.

Motioned by Bobette Patton, seconded by Karen Bernstein, and carried by voice vote to approve the proposed Façade Improvement projects for fiscal year 2025, not to exceed \$62,882.47. Margaret Holly and Byron Price voted “No” on this item.

Discussion was had on the reasons two board members opposed the vote. The group agreed to have the sub-committee consider amendments to the Façade Improvement Program.

Board Member Comments

There were no comments.

Next Meeting Date – July 10, 2025

It was noted that the school board had a meeting scheduled for this date, so the two school board members would be unable to attend an EDRST Board meeting. The group agreed to reschedule the EDRST Board meeting for July 17th at 6:30p. The group also agreed to continue with virtual meetings as it seems to be more convenient for everyone.

Adjourn

Motioned by Karen Bernstein, seconded by Bobette Patton and carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.