

Economic Development Retail Sales Tax Board
Minutes
July 17, 2025
6:30 p.m.

The Economic Development Retail Sales Tax (EDRST) Board held a virtual meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025. The meeting commenced at 6:33 pm and adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Voting Members Present:

Bobette Patton
Byron Price
Christina Dancy
Chair Brendan O'Brien

Voting Members Absent:

Dr. Monica Stewart
Margaret Holly
Cynthia Martin

Council Liaison:

Mayor Terry Crow

Staff Present:

Brooke A. Sharp, Deputy City Manager/Dir. of Economic Development
Becky Ahlvin, Economic Development Manager

Others attending:

None

Minutes

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

Public Comments

There were none received.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Terry Crow updated the board on a laundromat that is being build on Olive Blvd., noting that it would be a brand new laundromat. He also reiterated that the Seafood City site needs to be a priority for redevelopment and he discuss the Subtext development in the Loop and the importance of reimagining the Delmar Loop. Mayor Crow also discussed the importance of getting the EDRST funds reinvested in the community.

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp introduced the Board to Economic Development Manager Becky Ahlvin, stating that she joined the team in June. Brooke mentioned that Becky already had some ideas regarding the Delmar loop and stated that she was excited to have Becky on board.

Old Business

End of Year Reports – FY25

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp introduced this item to the Board. She reported on the activities for the four entities that receive annual funding from the EDRST Board.

Motioned by Byron Price, seconded by Bobette Patton and carried by voice vote to accept the end-of-year reports.

New Business

Release of Funds – FY26

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp introduced this agenda item, reviewing each entities funding request with the Board. She noted that the Farmers Market request would be reserved for last. Representatives from each entity attended the meeting and answered questions as asked. Discussion was had among the board members.

Motioned by Christina Dancy, seconded by Byron Price and carried by voice vote to recommend disbursement of funds to U City in Bloom, not to exceed \$75,260, for fiscal year 2026. Bobette Patton abstained from this vote.

Motioned by Christina Dancy, seconded by Bobette Patton and carried by voice vote to recommend disbursement of funds to The Mannequins Project, not to exceed \$36,000, for fiscal year 2026.

Motioned by Christina Dancy, seconded by Bobette Patton and carried by voice vote to recommend disbursement of funds to the Loop Special Business not to exceed \$275,000 for fiscal year 2026.

Discussion was had on the request from the Farmers Market because they were requesting more than a 100% increase in their funding. The previous fiscal year they were funded at \$46,000 and for fiscal year 2026, they were requesting \$91,500 in funding. Discussion was had on their new location and the reasons they were requesting so much additional funding. Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp stated that staff was comfortable recommending the additional funds to cover rental costs at Centennial Commons, but that staff was not comfortable recommending beyond that. Deb Henderson was present to discuss the matter with the Board. Discussion was had on the matter and the Board agreed that a 40% increase was reasonable at this time.

Motioned by Christina Dancy, seconded by Byron Price, and carried by voice vote to recommend disbursement of funds to the Farmers Market not to exceed \$64,400.

Business Outreach

Economic Development Manager Becky Ahlvin updated the Board on the Business Outreach that was being conducted by staff as part of reestablishing the Business Retention and Expansion program. She explained the purpose and updated the Board on the progress.

Board Member Comments

There were no comments.

Next Meeting Date – October 2, 2025

It was noted that the school board had a meeting scheduled for this date, so the two school

Adjourn

Motioned by Christina Dancy, seconded by Bobette Patton and carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.