

Economic Development Retail Sales Tax Board
Minutes
October 2, 2025
6:30 p.m.

The Economic Development Retail Sales Tax (EDRST) Board held a virtual meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2025. The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm and adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Voting Members Present:

Cynthia Martin
Bobette Patton
Byron Price
Brandon Bradshaw
Margaret Holly
Chair Brendan O'Brien

Voting Members Absent:

Dr. Monica Stewart

Council Liaison:

Mayor Terry Crow

Staff Present:

Brooke A. Sharp, Deputy City Manager - Development
Becky Ahlvin, Economic Development Manager
Larry Hampton, Chief of Police
John Mulligan, City Attorney

Others attending:

None

Minutes

Motioned by Christina Dancy, seconded by Cynthia Martin and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes from April 3, 2025 and July 17, 2025.

Public Comments

There were none received.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Crow provided updates on the Tru hotel project on Kingsland. He also discussed the controversial Canton Townhomes project and encouraged feedback on that project.

Old Business

U City Farmers Market Update

Deb Henderson, Executive Director for the U City Farmers Market provided an update on the Farmers Market and its activities at Centennial Commons.

Business Outreach Update

Becky Ahlvin, Economic Development Manager, provided an update on the Business Outreach activities that began in July of 2025.

Discussion was had on this topic.

New Business

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp stated that even though applications had no opened, there were two funding requests that the City Manager wanted the Board to consider. She stated that the police department was requesting \$200,000 to be split between years 26 and 27 and noted that the funding would be used for private security patrols and surveillance equipment like license plate readers.

Request for Funding – FY26: University City Police Department

Chief Larry Hampton explained that with the new infrastructure in the commercial areas, it has become a bit difficult to conduct routine patrols. He stated that hiring private security for additional patrols and adding surveillance trailers and license plate readers would increase safety in the commercial areas.

Discussion was had on this topic.

Board member Margaret Peggy Holly questioned whether this was a permitted use of EDRST funds. Discussion was had.

The Board decided to table this matter until the city attorney could issue an opinion on whether this was a permitted use of the funds.

Request for Funding – FY26: C-17 Commissary

Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp stated that this was a proposed redevelopment project for 8201 Olive, which was formerly Royal Banks. She noted that the applicant was YW Hospitality Group, LLC, which is the owner of Corner 17 in the Loop. She noted that total project costs were estimated to be over \$7 million and that the applicant is requesting \$438,178 in EDRST funding. Sharp indicated that staff was not prepared to make a recommendation because the information received from the consultant was outdated due to the applicant providing new numbers after the report was received.

The C-17 team provided additional background information on the project.

Discussion was had.

The Board determined that it did not have enough information to make a decision. This item was tabled

FY26 Façade Improvement Program – Tentative Schedule for Applications

Deputy City Manager Sharp noted that a vote was required and that the Board was being provided with a tentative schedule for accepting applications for the Façade Improvement Project. She indicated that \$150,000 was budgeted in this fiscal year.

Board Member Comments

Discussion was had about scheduling a sub-committee meeting, but it was decided that this would be done offline.

Next Meeting Date – January 8, 2026

Adjourn

Motioned by Cynthia Martin, seconded by Byron Price and carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.