

Economic Development Retail Sales Tax Board
Minutes
January 15, 2026
6:30 p.m.

The Economic Development Retail Sales Tax (EDRST) Board held a virtual meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2026. The meeting commenced at 6:34 pm and adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Voting Members Present:

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

Voting Members Absent:

Kay Gage

Council Liaison:

Mayor Terry Crow- Absent

Staff Present:

Becky Ahlvin, Economic Development Manager
Juan Lewis, Economic Development Specialist

Others Attending:

None

Agenda: Motioned to amend the agenda by Cynthia Martin, seconded by Byron Price and carried by a voice vote.

Minutes:

There were no minutes presented for approval.

Public Comments:

There were none received.

Mayor's Comments:

The Mayor was absent. Becky Ahlvin, Economic Development Manager provided the following updates:

- Juan Lewis was introduced as the new Economic Development Specialist

- The City Council meeting held on Monday evening addressed the MSD Clear Water Project, a 6-mile tunnel from Shrewsbury to University City. The related presentation is available on YouTube.
- City Council approved EDRST Funding for UCPD- Public Safety Equipment.
- EDRST Funding for C-17 Commissary Kitchen Project will be on January 26, 2026, City Council agenda.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Election of 2026 Officers

Motioned by Cynthia Martin and seconded by Byron Price to nominate Brendan O'Brien as Chair and Peggy Holly as Vice Chair.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Work Plan and Goals for 2026

Economic Development Manager Becky Ahlvin requested guidance from the board on priorities for the Economic Development department for 2026.

The board discussed prioritization of goals, including:

- Developing a transparent policy for municipal incentives
- Expanding support for new and small minority owned businesses
- Leveraging existing programs and funding opportunities to support entrepreneurs and new industries as top goals.

The board discussed increasing outreach and marketing to raise awareness of University City EDRST funding and tax incentives and how to spur development east of the Market at Olive development. Ms. Ahlvin reported that the department is working on implementing economic development software to help with business outreach.

No motions were made during this discussion.

Board Member Comments:

None.

Next Meeting Dates: February 26, 2026, and April 2, 2026

Adjournment:

Motioned by Byron Price, seconded by Dr. Monica Stewart and carried by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.