

REGULAR MEETING
322 Belknap, Stephenville Texas
Thursday, March 13th, 2025, at 4:00 PM

The Stephenville Type B Economic Development Authority convened on Thursday, March 13th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the SEDA Conference room at 322 Belknap, Stephenville, Texas with the meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting, giving time and date, place and subject thereof, having been posted as prescribed Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes of Annotated, with the following members present to wit:

Directors:

Marion Cole
Metta Collier
Justin Haschke
Ricky Thurman
Kelijon Nance (departed 4:32 p.m.)
Mark McClinton
Connie Wooley

Also in attendance: ex – officio members, President Jeff Sandford and Staff Ashleigh Feuerbacher, City Council Member Gerald Cook and Alan Nix.

1. Call To Order

The meeting of the Stephenville Type B Economic Development Authority was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. President's Report

President Sandford opened the report by stating "It's been a highly productive month for SEDA, with meaningful progress across several strategic initiatives". Sandford's presentation included a recently piloted interactive presentation feature allowing for real-time audience engagement, live polling, and Q&A sessions. This feature will be used more in upcoming meetings and speaking engagements. Sandford stated that we continue to see strong momentum in commercial development. The Amazon build-out is progressing on schedule and is expected to bring significant job opportunities and regional economic impact. As well as Trojan Steel moving forward with construction on their Texas headquarters, reflecting a continued focus on supporting advanced manufacturing and industrial growth. In the local retail and hospitality sector, Buffalo Wild Wings celebrated its grand opening, drawing strong community support and creating dozens of new jobs. The event was well-attended and highlighted as a success. Broadband continues to expand into underserved areas of our market. Ryse is the latest to reach out to the office, which aligns with regional goals of digital equity and economic competitiveness. We've strengthened our relationship with the Texas Historical Commission in Austin which reflect our communities voice at the state level. These relationships position us well for future funding opportunities and statewide initiatives that impact our heritage and infrastructure. SEDA's ongoing partnership with Workforce Solutions has resulted in a successful grant application to fund Career Club 2025-2026, which is expected to launch in the fall and will serve as a critical pipeline between employers and talent. Staff is preparing for the ICSC recruitment event this May, where we will showcase Stephenville's retail and commercial opportunities. Marketing discussions are taking place for this event through local geo fencing specialists, highlighting strategic advantages to attract investment and retail partners.

3. 89th Legislative Session – Economic Development

During the 89th Texas Legislative Session, several economic development initiatives were discussed, with a focus on strategic goals for the State's future. The Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) is assisting local offices with legislative efforts to ensure that regional needs are addressed during the session. Sandford emphasized that local economic development organizations (SEDA) must engage with legislative efforts to better serve their communities. These discussions reflect a commitment to fostering economic growth, enhancing infrastructure, and developing a skilled workforce to meet future challenges.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from January 16, 2025
- b. Financials from January 31, 2025
- c. Financials from February 28, 2025

Motion by Mark McClinton, second by Justin Haschke to approve consent agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider and Discuss Possible Approval for Façade Grant Applicants:

- a. 1901 W. Washington, Cielo Restaurant

Motion by Mark McClinton, second by Justin Hashcke to approve the application as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. 374 Washington St., Collier Consulting

Motion by Justin Hashcke, second by Mark McClinton to approve the application as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Executive Session

No report given

7. Action taken in items discussed in executive session, if necessary

No action taken

8. Adjourn

Chairman Cole adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.