



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICE  
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

**RICE, TEXAS**

**Monday, July 22, 2024  
6:00 PM**

**Rice City Hall – Business Hub  
305 N. Dallas Street  
Rice, TX 75155**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

- a. Garry Teague (absent)
- b. Rolando Chapa
- c. James Franks
- d. Tonya Roberts
- e. Donna Gipson
- f. Sarah Farley
- g. Archa Cassel (absent)
- h. Brandi Solomon

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

**3. Texas Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas State Flag**

"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

**4. Prayer**

**5. Public Forum**

**6. Agenda Items**

- a. Welcome New Member Sarah Farley – Discussion
  - Update contact information

- Discuss general mission of the EDC, review administrative information, and answer questions

b. Discuss Grant Application – BeeWell Doula & Massage

> James made a motion to table until of sales tax documents are received, Tonya 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes Rolando, Sarah, Donna, Brandi. Motion Passed.

c. Discuss and Deliberate Agreements for All Current Grant Applications

View note from lawyer: decide on amounts, requirements, etc. for each:

- Marerro Insurance Group
- El Rincon de Michoahan
- Soggy Peso
- BeeWell Doula and Massage

> Marerro Group must make an initial investment, REDC will match 50%, up to a \$10,000 match, upon receipt of receipts, and providing proof of hiring at least 3 employees between grant submission and 7/22/24.

> James made a motion to grant Marreo Group the \$10,000 with the listed stipulations. Rolando Seconded. Ayes: Donna, Sarah, Tonya and Brandi. Motion Passed.

> James made a motion to table discussion of El Rincon until August 20th so that all grant applications may be turned in. Tonya 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes – Rolando, Brandi, Sarah, Donna. Motion Passed.

> James made a motion to grant Soggy Peso \$5,000 upon receipt of an invoice. Donna 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes Rolando, Brandi, Tonya, Sarah. Motion Passed.

d. Discuss Information Learned from the TML Small Town Conference.

- Donna will present information that was collected at the TML Small Town Conference.

> Donna provided insight on how to create “Viral Moments” to bring outside interest.

- Review information received from Daniel Short at the SBDC (traffic counts) and how they could apply to EDC projects, using concepts and examples provided at the conference.

> Daniel provided information on how to gather detailed information on Rice’s traffic. Brandi related how that information can be used to vet larger retailers to our area.

e. Discuss Current Grant Opportunities, Projects and Event Updates

- Archa will update on the Summer Bash Event, as well as upcoming grant opportunities and any other current project updates.

> Summer Bash is this Saturday 7/27 at 1:00pm, Archa has confirmed T-Mobile will be attendance. Archa will continue looking for grant opportunities when we have specified this year’s projects.

f. Discuss and Deliberate 2025 Fiscal Year Budget

- Refer to Budget Workshop minutes

> James made a motion to accept the Budget from the workshop, Donna 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes - Tonya, Rolando, Brandi, Sarah. Motion Passed.

g. Discuss and Deliberate Projects and Goals for 2025

- Community Development - Downtown Property (electricity & lights) + grants and/or fundraising for pavilion/food truck & event parking, foot paths, benches, etc. \*see attachment
- Community Development/Recreational Improvement - make updates to Baseball Fields at Mike

Dickens Memorial Park

- Business Development - Grants and Incentive Programs
- Business Development - Property/Attracting New Business
- Community Outreach – Events (Business Fair/Taste of Rice on 11/9?), advertising, other ideas

> Donna made a motion that we will allocate \$15,000 in property enhancement for the EDC Pavilion Project in 2025. James 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes – Rolando, Sarah, Brandi, Tonya. Motion Passed.

> Board will gather bids for potential Recreational Improvements projects.

> Tonya suggested that we add a local tourist guide including local restaurants and provide a training / networking event for the public.

h. Discuss and Deliberate Cut Off Date For Accepting Grant Applications

> No action needed. Date set previously to 7/22/24.

i. Discuss and Deliberate Signatories for REDC Bank Account

- The bank is requiring us to have minutes that reflect the names of our signatories in order to update our signature card. Per our bylaws it should be the City Administrator (Vicki Fisher) and the EDC President (Brandi Solomon).

> James made a motion to accept Brandi and Vicki as signatories. Donna 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes – Rolando, Brandi, Tonya, Sarah. Motion Passed.

j. Discuss and Deliberate Financial Statements

- See attachment

> James made a motion to accept the financial statements, Tonya 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes – Rolando, Brandi, Tonya, Sarah. Motion Passed.

k. Discuss and Deliberate EDC Meeting Minutes

- See attachment

> James made a motion to accept the minutes. Tonya 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ayes – Rolando, Brandi, Tonya, Sarah. Motion Passed.

## 7. Adjourn

> James made a motion to adjourn. Tonya 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayes – Rolando, Brandi, Tonya, Sarah. Motion Passed. Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 PM

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator