# REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION RICE, TEXAS

**Monday, November 16th, 2026**
**6:00 PM**
**Rice City Hall Council Chambers**
**305 N. Dallas Street Rice, TX 75155**

## AGENDA

1. **Roll Call**
   a. Brandi Solomon
   b. Rolando Chapa
   c. Donna Gipson
   d. Archa Cassel
   e. Tristine Slayton
   f. Sarah Farley
   g. Neil Chapman

2. **Prayer**
3. **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."
4. **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.

5. **Public Forum**

6. **Agenda Items**

A. EDC Board Announcements
- Downtown Electricity Update
- Discover Rice 2027: Property/New Business opportunities, Downtown Events, Online Ads
- Website implementation – City Council vote to approve new website, including branded pages for EDC *see attached for pricing reference
- Schedule next review for TEDC Actionable Items
- Carolina Updates

B. Discuss Plans for Downtown Development
- Structure/Layout for Pollan Family Park
- Walking path updates
- Grant Opportunities/Focus
- Greenspace improvement (plants/landscaping
- Identify and assign tasks for "Next Steps"

C. Discuss Business Development Initiatives
- Review updated ESRI Data
* see ESRI documents, and example proposal for "Pizza to Go" business in downtown
- Review strategies on using data in addition to available property, local Realtors and in communications with Developers, Business Owners, etc.

D. Discuss Budget and Commitments for Christmas Event
Saturday December 12th from 3PM – 7PM (ending with the Christmas Tree lighting)
- Review budget, determine what has been paid/what is left
  Tree, wreaths/décor, crafts (gingerbread & ornaments), smores kits, inflatables
- Review schedule, assign times/volunteers – volunteers will do one of the following: help with set-up, work the EDC craft/table, supervise the Bounce House and inflatable games, or help pack-up. Shifts will be (set-up) 2-3, (event) 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-7, (pack-up) 7-8

E. Discuss and Deliberate Financial Statement
(see attached 10/2026)

F. Discuss and Deliberate Meeting Minutes
(see attached 10/2026)

7. **Adjourn**

I hereby certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board of City Hall, City of Rice, Texas, a place readily accessible to the general public at all times, on the _____ day of _____ 2026 by _____ p.m.

# City of Rice
# Financial Statement
# As of October 31, 2026

| 950 - Rice EDC | Current Month Actual | Current Month Budget | Budget Variance | YTD Actual | Annual Budget | % of Budget | Budget Remaining |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Revenue Summary** | | | | | | | |
| Sales & Property Taxes | 4,497.37 | 3,748.50 | 748.87 | 4,497.37 | 45,000.00 | 9.99% | 40,502.63 |
| EDC Account Carry Forward Year End | 0.00 | 9,246.30 | (9,246.30) | 0.00 | 111,000.00 | 0.00% | 111,000.00 |
| Revenue Totals | 4,497.37 | 12,994.80 | (8,497.43) | 4,497.37 | 156,000.00 | 2.88% | 151,502.63 |
| **Expense Summary** | | | | | | | |
| Personnel/Payroll | 907.54 | 1,066.24 | (158.70) | 907.54 | 12,800.00 | 7.09% | 11,892.46 |
| Office & Supplies | 31.00 | 145.77 | (114.77) | 31.00 | 1,750.00 | 1.77% | 1,719.00 |
| Operating Expense | 0.00 | 599.76 | (599.76) | 0.00 | 7,200.00 | 0.00% | 7,200.00 |
| Legal & Professional Fees | 0.00 | 433.16 | (433.16) | 0.00 | 5,200.00 | 0.00% | 5,200.00 |
| Community Programs & Donations | 1,576.85 | 4,581.50 | (3,004.65) | 1,576.85 | 55,000.00 | 2.87% | 53,423.15 |
| Grant Expense | 0.00 | 2,499.00 | (2,499.00) | 0.00 | 30,000.00 | 0.00% | 30,000.00 |
| EDC Reserves | 0.00 | 3,669.36 | (3,669.36) | 0.00 | 44,050.00 | 0.00% | 44,050.00 |
| Expense Totals | 2,515.39 | 12,994.79 | (10,479.40) | 2,515.39 | 156,000.00 | 1.61% | 153,484.61 |

# City of Rice
# Financial Statement
# As of October 31, 2026

| 950 - Rice EDC | Current Month Actual | Current Month Budget | Budget Variance | YTD Actual | Annual Budget | % of Budget | Budget Remaining |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sales & Property Taxes** | | | | | | | |
| 950-4132 4B Economic Development Sales | 4,497.37 | 3,748.50 | 748.87 | 4,497.37 | 45,000.00 | 9.99% | 40,502.63 |
| Sales & Property Taxes Totals | 4,497.37 | 3,748.50 | 748.87 | 4,497.37 | 45,000.00 | 9.99% | 40,502.63 |
| **EDC Account Carry Forward Year End Estimated Balance** | | | | | | | |
| 950-8001 EDC Account Carry Forward Year | 0.00 | 9,246.30 | (9,246.30) | 0.00 | 111,000.00 | 0.00% | 111,000.00 |
| EDC Account Carry Forward Year End Estimated Balance Totals | 0.00 | 9,246.30 | (9,246.30) | 0.00 | 111,000.00 | 0.00% | 111,000.00 |
| Revenue Totals | 4,497.37 | 12,994.80 | (8,497.43) | 4,497.37 | 156,000.00 | 2.88% | 151,502.63 |

# City of Rice
# Financial Statement
# As of October 31, 2026

| 950 - Rice EDC<br>EDC General Administration | Current Month Actual | Current Month Budget | Budget Variance | YTD Actual | Annual Budget | % Budget Used | Budget Remaining |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Community Programs & Donations | 1,576.85 | 4,581.50 | (3,004.65) | 1,576.85 | 55,000.00 | 2.87% | 53,423.15 |
| EDC Reserves | 0.00 | 3,669.36 | (3,669.36) | 0.00 | 44,050.00 | 0.00% | 44,050.00 |
| Grant Expense | 0.00 | 2,499.00 | (2,499.00) | 0.00 | 30,000.00 | 0.00% | 30,000.00 |
| Legal & Professional Fees | 0.00 | 433.16 | (433.16) | 0.00 | 5,200.00 | 0.00% | 5,200.00 |
| Office & Supplies | 31.00 | 145.77 | (114.77) | 31.00 | 1,750.00 | 1.77% | 1,719.00 |
| Operating Expense | 0.00 | 599.76 | (599.76) | 0.00 | 7,200.00 | 0.00% | 7,200.00 |
| Personnel/Payroll | 907.54 | 1,066.24 | (158.70) | 907.54 | 12,800.00 | 7.09% | 11,892.46 |
| **EDC General Administration Totals** | 2,515.39 | 12,994.79 | (10,479.40) | 2,515.39 | 156,000.00 | 1.61% | 153,484.61 |
| **Expense Total** | 2,515.39 | 12,994.79 | (10,479.40) | 2,515.39 | 156,000.00 | 1.61% | 153,484.61 |

# City of Rice
# Financial Statement
# As of October 31, 2026

| 950 - Rice EDC<br>EDC General Administration | Current Month Actual | Current Month Budget | Budget Variance | YTD Actual | Annual Budget | % Budget Used | Budget Remaining |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 950-10-5109 Contract Labor | 480.00 | 833.00 | (353.00) | 480.00 | 10,000.00 | 4.80% | 9,520.00 |
| 950-10-5201 Office Supplies | 31.00 | 124.95 | (93.95) | 31.00 | 1,500.00 | 2.07% | 1,469.00 |
| 950-10-5202 Printing Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% | 0.00 |
| 950-10-5203 Postage | 0.00 | 20.82 | (20.82) | 0.00 | 250.00 | 0.00% | 250.00 |
| 950-10-5206 Training Expense | 427.54 | 233.24 | 194.30 | 427.54 | 2,800.00 | 15.27% | 2,372.46 |
| 950-10-5211 Electric Service | 0.00 | 99.96 | (99.96) | 0.00 | 1,200.00 | 0.00% | 1,200.00 |
| 950-10-5223 Audit Expense | 0.00 | 83.30 | (83.30) | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00% | 1,000.00 |
| 950-10-5224 Legal and Professional Fees | 0.00 | 349.86 | (349.86) | 0.00 | 4,200.00 | 0.00% | 4,200.00 |
| 950-10-5227 Advertising | 0.00 | 166.60 | (166.60) | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00% | 2,000.00 |
| 950-10-5229 Public & Employee Relations | 1,576.85 | 1,666.00 | (89.15) | 1,576.85 | 20,000.00 | 7.88% | 18,423.15 |
| 950-10-5452 Hardware/Software | 0.00 | 333.20 | (333.20) | 0.00 | 4,000.00 | 0.00% | 4,000.00 |
| 950-10-5702 Business Improvement | 0.00 | 2,499.00 | (2,499.00) | 0.00 | 30,000.00 | 0.00% | 30,000.00 |
| 950-10-8009 EDC Reserves | 0.00 | 3,669.36 | (3,669.36) | 0.00 | 44,050.00 | 0.00% | 44,050.00 |
| 950-10-9501 Recreational Improvements | 0.00 | 1,249.50 | (1,249.50) | 0.00 | 15,000.00 | 0.00% | 15,000.00 |
| 950-10-9502 EDC Property Improvements | 0.00 | 1,666.00 | (1,666.00) | 0.00 | 20,000.00 | 0.00% | 20,000.00 |
| EDC General Administration Totals | 2,515.39 | 12,994.79 | (10,479.40) | 2,515.39 | 156,000.00 | 1.61% | 153,484.61 |
| Expense Totals | 2,515.39 | 12,994.79 | (10,479.40) | 2,515.39 | 156,000.00 | 1.61% | 153,484.61 |

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION RICE, TEXAS

**Monday, October 26th, 2026**
**6:00 PM**
**Rice City Hall Council Chambers**
**305 N. Dallas Street Rice, TX 75155**

## MINUTES

1. **Roll Call**
   a. Brandi Solomon
   b. Rolando Chapa
   c. Donna Gipson
   d. Archa Cassel
   e. Tristine Slayton
   f. Sarah Farley
   g. Neil Chapman - Late 6:24pm

2. **Prayer**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Texas Pledge of Allegiance**
5. **Public Forum**
6. **Agenda Items**

1) Discuss Actionable Items from TEDC
   - Donna Gipson and Sarah Farley will present; discuss any ideas we can/should implement
      a. Donna presented ideas that we can implement without spending any additional funds. Rolando suggested promoting the historical downtown as a tourist attraction. Tonya made a suggestion to accommodate seasonal sports playoff traffic with RV parks or Airbnbs.

b. Donna also wants to add a database of all properties available for sale in Rice added to our website.
c. Donna wants us to explore economic development grants to entice outside businesses or get existing business to annex into Rice city limits.
d. Rolando mentioned that we should poll Rice residents to see what new businesses would be most needed.
e. Brandi said we have 65,000 vehicles a day that pass through our city limits.
f. Tristine asked "Since the data centers are coming, what businesses can we attract to target the traffic that follows them?"

2) Discuss and Deliberate Any Actions or Tasks Related to TEDC
   a. Brandi stated that we will be getting an updated website platform that we can use to promote available real estate and other community events and opportunities.
   b. We also have a budget for advertising that we can use towards attracting businesses on Facebook.

3) EDC Board Announcements
   - Donna Gipson, Rolando Chapa Jr., and Archa Cassel were all reappointed by the City Council.
   - Neil Chapman accepted nomination and was appointed by the City Council for the remaining board position – completing the 7-member board
   - Update for Electricity Downtown
     - Oncor has finished their part and we should be receiving an estimate on meter installation.
   - Carolina Updates
     - Carolina asked for feedback on our event, Brandi suggested more one on one visits with businesses, she is going to meet with the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce Coordinator tomorrow to talk about other ways we can reach out to businesses.
     - We have two storefront improvement grants that have been submitted.

   - Workshop Reminder: November will be discussion/planning for Pollan Family Park. We will also review updated ESRI data, and broader plans for Downtown
     -

4) Discuss and Deliberate Re/Appointment of Board Officers
   - Positions/Officers are as follows; *Offices to appoint

   1) Tristine Slayton 06/27
   2) Donna Gipson: Vice President 06/28*
   3) Neil Chapman 06/27
   4) Rolando Chapa: Secretary 06/28*
   5) Sarah Farley 06/27
   6) Archa Cassel 06/26
   7) Brandi Solomon 06/27

   Tristine made a motion to keep Donna as VP and Rolando as Secretary. Archa seconded. Ayes - Brandi, Sarah, and Neil. Motion passes

5) Discuss and Deliberate Contract Agreement for Administrative Assistant
   - Review current contract with Carolina Childers (see attached, updated with renewed start date)
     - Tristine made a motion to renew the contract. Sarah seconded. Ayes - Rolando, Donna, Brandi, Neil. Archa - Abstain. Moton passes.

6) Discuss and Deliberate Budget and Commitments for Christmas Event
Saturday December 12th from 3PM – 7PM (ending with the Christmas Tree lighting)
- Purchase Decor/Christmas Tree assist with labor -
- Promote/Collect Vendors & Food Trucks for/Coordinate & Manage Vendor Market
- Promote event to a larger audience
- Provide crafts - gingerbread house kits (cardboard), ornament making, smores kits
- Provide activities - bounce house, inflatable game/axe throw
- Provide volunteers

STILL TO DO
- Secure access to Downtown buildings (water/heat??)
- Secure Santa Claus
- Decide Event Layout
- Secure toilets/handwashing (budget?)
- Collect cookies (Collin Street Bakery)

7) Discuss and Deliberate Financial Statement
(see attached 09/2026)
   a. Rolando made a motion to accept. Donna seconded, Ayes- Brandi, Neil, Archa, Sarah, Tristine. Motion passes.

8) Discuss and Deliberate Meeting Minutes
(see attached 09/2026)
   a. Donna made a motion to accept the minutes. Neil seconded. Ayes - Rolando, Sarah, Donna, Tristine, Archa. Motion passes.

*Addendum 11/10/2026: note that Tristine Slayton was late to the September meeting and not absent.

7. **Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm**