

# SHEPHERD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
28 N. Liberty, Shepherd, Texas 77371  
September 2, 2025, at 6:00pm

**Members Present:** Charles Minton, Billy Lacoste, Kolton Purvis, Pam Ellis, Wendell Williams, Mark Porter,  
**Members Absent:** Kurtz Stowers,  
**Others Present:** Debra Hagler, Lauren Migl, Mark James

## **CALLED TO ORDER/INVOCATION/PLEDGE**

Mark Porter called the meeting to order in Kurtz absence. Wendell Williams also led in prayer and the pledges.

## **APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Charles Minton made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Billy LaCoste seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

## **APPROVE MONTHLY PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mark Porter made a motion to pay the bills. Charles Minton seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS:** None

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Discuss and take action necessary regarding a grant writer.**

Charles Minton made a motion to approve this contract pending the City Council's approval and to ensure the due date aligns with EDC's pay cycle. Kolton Purvis seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. The contract was presented to the City Attorney, and he stated it was fine to approve the contract if the board wanted to.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Discuss and take action to become a member of the Leadership East Texas and appoint a board member for the cost of \$1800.00 out of the advertising budget line item. This pays for two students to attend the training along with the advertisement.**

Kolton Purvis made a motion to approve the membership and to have Charles Minton appointed to this board. Billy LaCoste seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote. City Secretary Debra Hagler and Library Director Terri MacIntyre were chosen to attend the class.

### **Discuss and take action to finalize the 2025-2026 budget before the council votes to approve it on September 15, 2025.**

Billy LaCoste made a motion to approve the proposed budget to submit to the council for final approval. Mark Porter seconded the motion and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### **Discuss and take action regarding the Halloween event and the possibility of partnering with the school's Halloween event.**

No action was taken on this matter. The School is having their Halloween event on Tuesday October 28<sup>th</sup>. Lauren needed to know whether the board wanted to join the school's event or to have a separate event. The board agreed it needed to remain separated but to have it on the same date.

### **Discuss and take action regarding the 2026 Business Dinner**

No action was taken on this matter. Discussion was held on whether to have a Thanksgiving lunch or a dinner at the first of the year. The nighttime event was better attended. Kolton volunteered to help with the event. Lauren mentioned a keynote speaker and gift cards as prizes for attendees.

### **Discuss and take action regarding a Christmas idea that will give back to the community.**

No action was taken on this matter. Lauren mentioned that she hired the grinch last year and he was a tremendous success. She stated that she joined the school's celebration. Discussion was held to determine if this event is something to repeat?

**Discuss and take action regarding a request from a citizen to beautify the city.**

No action was taken on this matter. Lauren received a phone call from a citizen asking, "why can't the EDC purchase land and beautify the town?" Lauren agreed to relay the message to the board. She stated also that the citizen felt like town pride has decreased. Code enforcement was mentioned.

**The EDC board convened into executive session at 6:32pm to discuss Economic Development Negotiations. (Lauren's Report)**

**Executive session was adjourned at 6:56pm**

**OPEN DISCUSSION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gerald Deeter and Ray McCoppin from San Jacinto County TV was reported on the tv advertisement they recently started. They also have a YOUTUBE channel where they stream meetings from different organizations. Mr. Deeter thanked the EDC Board as they were a catalyst for their new endeavor.

**ADJOURN: 7:03pm**

Billy LaCoste made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles Minton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kurtz Stowers, EDC President  
\*Prepared by Debra Hagler