FINAL - MINUTES
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Kristen Carden called the meeting to order at 4:59PM.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Tera Thompson, Jason Hurta, Kathy Meurin, Don Austin, and Kristen Carden
Absent: Larry Hammonds and Shane Hines

3. **CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS**

This time is for citizens to address the Board on issues and items of concerns not on this agenda. There will be no Board action at this time.

None.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A) Presentation and discussion on the October 2025 Treasurer's Report

Vice President Carden introduced this item. Jared Werner, Assistant City Manager, presented on this matter. Mr. Werner identified a 1.9% increase in sales tax collections for August; with adjustments removed, the current period collections increased by 5.1% as compared to August of 2024. Retail sales grew by 7.8%, food services by 6.8%, general services (which includes tourism-based businesses) was down 7.4%, professional services grew by 9.5%, wholesale was down 5%, and miscellaneous was down 10%. Overall, FY25 sales tax collections are up 1.6% a compared to August in FY24. Mr. Werner shared additional graphs indicating projected revenues, current commitments to projects, the projected capacity for additional expenditures, and the proposed ending fund balance to FY27.

5. **ADVISORY REPORT**

A) Presentation and Q4 update from the SPARK Small Business Center

Vice President Carden introduced this item. Justin Meadows, President of the SPARK Board, introduced Ron Richardson, Certified Business Advisor of SPARK. Mr. Richardson presented Q3 and Q4 data metrics, a year over year comparison, an overview of community

engagement and education efforts, a summary of lessons learned from the Kansas InterCity trip, a partnership with the Westside Community Center, future plans to support community artists, a summary of training programs offered, new business launches and expansions, recent online reviews, and highlights of the 2025-2026 SPARK budget. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Meadows answered questions from the Board.

6. <u>DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION</u>

A) Presentation, public hearing, discussion, and possible action approving an expenditure, of up to $250,000, to the SPARK Small Business Center to assist with the operation of an economic development program, pursuant to Section 505.102 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Vice President Carden introduced this item. Jeff Jewell, Director of Economic and Community Development, summarized the FY26 program year and proposed contract. Vice President Carden opened the public hearing at 5:33PM, no comments were made, public hearing was closed at 5:33PM. Director Meurin motioned to approve the FY26 contract to the SPARK Small Business Center, Director Hurta seconded the motion, and the item was approved unanimously.

B) Presentation, discussion, and update on the Gruene 16 Project

Vice President Carden introduced this item. Mr. Jewell shared an update on the Gruene 16 project, provided a summary on the RFQ solicitation process, and identified next steps. Plans are to present to NBEDC and City Council for a Development Agreement in January 2026 with the goal of executing the agreement in Q2 2026.

7. <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>

In accordance with the Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, the Board reserves the right to retire into executive session concerning the items listed on this agenda to consult with its attorney. In addition, the Board may convene in executive session on any of the following items, with any final action being taken in open session:

A) Deliberate issues regarding economic development negotiations in accordance with Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code:

1. Project Shoot
2. The Neue
3. Project Thread

4. Project Maiden
5. Project Pluto
6. Project Geneva
7. Project Magazine

Vice President Carden introduced this item. The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 5:38PM. Executive Session was opened at 5:44PM, the items were discussed in the order on the posted agenda. No action was taken. The Board returned to open session at 6:20PM.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Carden adjourned the meeting at 6:23PM.

By: ________________________________

SHANE HINES, President