



College Station, TX

Meeting Agenda City Council City Council Economic Development Committee 1207 Texas Ave, College Station, TX 77840

The City Council may or may not attend this meeting.

August 6, 2025

3:00 PM

**Visit College Station Large
Conference Room**

1. Call meeting to order and consider absence requests.

2. Hear Visitors.

At this time, the Chairperson will open the floor to citizens wishing to address issues not already scheduled on today's agenda. Each citizen's presentation will be limited to three minutes in order to allow adequate time for the completion of the agenda items. Comments will be received and city staff may be asked to look into the matter, or the matter may be placed on a future agenda for discussion. A recording may be made of the meeting; please give your name and address for the record.

3. Agenda Items

- 3.1. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the minutes of the May 7, 2025, Economic Development Committee meeting.
- 3.2. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Economic Development Master Plan.
- 3.3. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding an update on Tourism initiatives.
- 3.4. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding an update on entrepreneurship efforts.

4. Discussion and possible action on future agenda items.

A member may inquire about a subject for which notice has not been given. A statement of specific factual information or the recitation of existing policy may be given. Any deliberation shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on an agenda for a subsequent meeting.

5. Executive Session

5.1. Real Estate {Gov't Code Section 551.072};

Possible action. The Committee may deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the City in negotiations with a third person. After executive session discussion, any final action or vote taken will be in public. The following subject(s) may be discussed:

- a. Approximately 300 acres generally located at Corporate Parkway and Midtown Drive in the Midtown Business Park.

6. Adjourn.

Adjournment into Executive Session may occur in order to consider any item listed on the agenda if a matter is raised that is appropriate for Executive Session discussion.

I certify that the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the website and at College Station City Hall, 1101 Texas Avenue, College Station, Texas, on August 1, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.



Deputy City Secretary

This building is wheelchair accessible. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services such as interpreters, readers, or large print are asked to contact the City Secretary's Office at (979) 764-3541, TDD at 1-800-735-2989, or email adaassistance@cstx.gov at least two business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If the City does not receive notification at least two business days prior to the meeting, the City will make a reasonable attempt to provide the necessary accommodations.

Penal Code § 30.07. Trespass by License Holder with an Openly Carried Handgun.

"Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (Trespass by License Holder with an Openly Carried Handgun) A Person Licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (Handgun Licensing Law), may not enter this Property with a Handgun that is Carried Openly."

Codigo Penal § 30.07. Traspasar Portando Armas de Mano al Aire Libre con Licencia.

"Conforme a la Seccion 30.07 del codigo penal (traspasar portando armas de mano al aire libre con licencia), personas con licencia bajo del Sub-Capitulo H, Capitulo 411, Codigo de Gobierno (Ley de licencias de arma de mano), no deben entrar a esta propiedad portando arma de mano al aire libre."

August 6, 2025
Item No. 3.1.
Minutes of Previous Meeting

Sponsor: Michael Ostrowski, Chief Development Officer

Reviewed By CBC: Economic Development Committee

Agenda Caption: Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the minutes of the May 7, 2025, Economic Development Committee meeting.

Relationship to Strategic Goals:

- Good Governance

Recommendation(s): Staff recommends approval of the minutes.

Summary: This item includes the minutes from the May 7, 2025, Economic Development Committee.

Budget & Financial Summary: N/A

Attachments:

1. Minutes - Economic Development Committee - 20250507



College Station, TX

Meeting Minutes

City Council City Council Economic Development Committee
1207 Texas Ave, College Station, TX 77840

Internet: www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting

Meeting ID: 255 715 032 186 Passcode: N2F5e6wS

Phone: 979-431-4880 / Phone Conference ID: 833 345 516#

May 7, 2025

3:00 PM

**Visit College Station Large
Conference Room**

Present:

Mayor John Nichols

Councilmember Bob Yancy

Councilmember William Wright

Staff in Attendance:

Bryan Woods, City Manager

Jeff Capps, Deputy City Manager

Michael Ostrowski, Chief Development Officer

Adam Falco, City Attorney

Aaron Longoria, Assistant City Attorney

Brian Piscacek, Assistant Director Economic Development

Jeremiah Cook, Assistant Director Tourism

Wende Ragonis Anderson, Economic Development Manager

Stacey Vazquez, Economic Development Coordinator

Lisa McCracken, Administrative Support Assistant

1. Call meeting to order and consider absence requests.

The meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Mayor Nichols via In-Person and Teleconference at 3:00 p.m. on May 7, 2025, in the Visit College Station Conference Room, 1207 Texas Avenue, College Station, Texas 77840.

The Regular Session adjourned at 3:38 pm and proceeded directly into the Executive Session.

2. Hear Visitors.

No Visitors provided comments.

3. Agenda Items.

3.1. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the minutes of the February 5, 2025, Economic Development Committee meeting.

Motion by Mayor Nichols to approve the Minutes, second by Councilmember Wright; Motion

passed 3-0.

3.2. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding an update on Tourism initiatives.

Jeremiah Cook, Assistant Director Tourism, provided an update about the items discussed at the April 30 Tourism Committee meeting. The committee reviewed the Tourism Strategic Plan process, the 2nd phase of the Convention Center Feasibility Study, and the review of data reports for the previous month, as well as the FY25-26 budget requests.

3.3. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding an update to the Economic Development Master Plan.

Brian Piscacek, Assistant Director Economic Development, provided an update on the Economic Development Plan, which includes in-person visits by TIP Strategies, Inc. staff and stakeholder engagement through interviews, focus groups, and workshops. TIP will present to the City Council with final plans later in May. Deliberated on the project deliverables to include project start-up guide, meetings, stakeholder input sessions, data visualizations, ED Master Plan, and implementation Matrix.

Mayor Nichols recommended the item be presented with an update at the May 8, 2025, City Council Meeting.

4. Discussion and possible action on future agenda items.

A member may inquire about a subject for which notice has not been given. A statement of specific factual information or the recitation of existing policy may be given. Any deliberation shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on an agenda for a subsequent meeting.

Request for an update from Susan Davenport with the Greater Brazos Partnership.

5. Executive Session.

In accordance with the Texas Local Government Code §551.072-Real Estate, §551.087-Economic Incentive Negotiations, the Economic Development Committee convened into Executive Session at 3:38 p.m. on May 7, 2025, to continue discussing matters pertaining to:

5.1. Deliberation on the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, to wit:

- Approximately 8 acres of land located at 1508 Harvey Road
- Approximately 300 acres of land generally located at Corporate Parkway and Midtown Drive in the Midtown Business Park.

5.2. Deliberation on an offer of financial or other incentives for a business prospect that the Council seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City, to wit:

- Economic development agreement for a development generally located at the

intersection of University Drive East and Tarrow Street.

- Economic development agreement with Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies Texas, LLC, f/k/a Kalon Biotherapeutics LLC.
- Economic development agreement for a development generally located at the intersection of Raymod Stotzer Parkway and State Highway 47.
- Economic development agreement with Corinth Group, Inc.
- Economic development agreement for a development generally located in the 3100 block of Harvey Road
- Economic development agreement for a development generally located at the intersection of FM2154 and High Prairie Road in the City's ETJ.

Executive Session recessed at 4:30 p.m. No action was taken.

6. Adjourn.

Mayor Nichols adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

August 6, 2025
Item No. 3.2.

Sponsor: Michael Ostrowski, Chief Development Officer

Reviewed By CBC: Economic Development Committee

Agenda Caption: Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Economic Development Master Plan.

Relationship to Strategic Goals:

- Diverse & Growing Economy

Recommendation(s): Staff recommend that the committee receive the presentation and provide direction as desired.

Summary: The City entered into an agreement with TIP Strategies, Inc. on May 8, 2025, to provide consultant services related to the development of an update to our Economic Development Master Plan. Over the last two months, TIP has conducted baseline analysis of College Station and engaged with a variety of stakeholders to better understand our community's competitive position. For this item, TIP will join to update the committee on the latest findings and offer additional insight on next steps in the plan development process.

Budget & Financial Summary: N/A

Attachments:

None

August 6, 2025
Item No. 3.3.
Update on Tourism Initiatives

Sponsor: Jeremiah Cook, Assistant Director - Tourism

Reviewed By CBC: Economic Development Committee

Agenda Caption: Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding an update on Tourism initiatives.

Relationship to Strategic Goals:

- Good Governance
- Diverse & Growing Economy

Recommendation(s): Staff recommend that the committee receive the presentation.

Summary: Staff will provide an update on the Tourism Strategic Planning process, the Convention Center Feasibility Study, and the activities of the Tourism Committee.

Budget & Financial Summary: N/A

Attachments:

1. 6.25.25 Minutes
2. 5.28.25 Minutes
3. 4.30.25 Minutes

**Minutes Of The Tourism Committee
City Of College Station
June 25, 2025**



1. Call to order and introductions.

Present:

Committee Member Greg Stafford
Committee Member Rhianon Elizabeth Whitney
Committee Member Costa Dallis
Committee Member Paul Allen Loy
Committee Member Scott Logan
Committee Member Connor Clark
Committee Member Kevin Davis
Committee Member William L. Peel, Jr.
Committee Member Jim Ross

Absent:

Committee Member Hunter Goodwin
Committee Member Erin Jones

City Staff:

Michael Ostrowski, Chief Development Officer
Jeremiah Cook, Assistant Director, Tourism - Virtual
Kelsey Heiden, Director, Parks and Recreation
Jo Beth Wolfe, Convention Sales Manager - Virtual
Alex Aguero, Sports Sales Manager
Angie Bertinot, Marketing Manager
Lisa McCracken, Administrative Support Specialist
Gene Ballew, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation

Others:

Councilmember David White
Councilmember Bob Yancy
Steve Beachy - Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial
Michael Bottigliesi - President of Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial
Leslie Bowlin - CEO of The Arts Center of Brazos Valley

With a quorum present, the meeting of the Tourism Committee was called to order by Chairperson Cortney Phillips via In-Person and Teleconference at 3:02 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, in the Visitor Center Large Conference Room at 1207 Texas Avenue, College Station, Texas 77840.

2. Hear Visitors.

At this time, the Chairperson will open the floor to citizens wishing to address issues not already scheduled on today's agenda. Each citizen's presentation will be limited to three minutes in order to allow adequate time for the completion of the agenda items. Comments will be received and city staff may be asked to look into the matter, or the matter may be placed on a future agenda for discussion. A recording may be made of the meeting; please give your name and address for the record. No Visitors were present.

3. Agenda Items

3.1. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the minutes of the previous meeting.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Committee Member William L. Peel and a second by Committee Member Greg Stafford, the committee voted 7 for and 0 opposed to approve the minutes of the May 28th, 2025, meeting.

3.2. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial Fiscal Year 2026 funding request.

Assistant Director Cook presented the \$30,000 funding request for the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial (BVVM). Steve Beachy and Michael Bottigliesi presented how the funds would be utilized. Committee Member Stafford expressed concerns about funding through Hotel Tax Revenue. Committee Member Ross recommended that the City and BVVM should monitor visitation numbers and marketing activities, and present the collected data at future meetings for evaluation.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Committee Member Jim Ross and a second by Committee Member Greg Stafford, the Committee voted 8 for and 0 opposed to recommend approval of the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial Fiscal Year 2026 funding request.

3.3. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the Arts Center of the Brazos Valley Fiscal Year 2026 funding request.

Committee member Connor Clark attended the meeting at 3:45 pm.

Assistant Director Jeremiah Cook provided an overview of how the funding for the Brazos Valley Arts Center will be utilized in FY26, including a detailed breakdown of the funding request. The Arts Center is seeking \$678,785 in Hotel Occupancy Tax funds and \$35,000 in General Funds for FY 2026. This request represents a 21% increase from the \$560,953 awarded in FY 2025.

- Affiliate Pass-through Sub-granting
- Art's Center Affiliate marketing
- Arts Center O&M0
- Arts Tourism Marketing
- Public Art
- Local Arts Marketing

Leslie Bowlin provided an overview of past and upcoming events, highlighting the various opportunities the Art Council offers to the community. These include camps, outreach through the Teens for Life program, Artist Connect, and Artist-in-Residence programs. The Arts Center has been actively marketing its projects within the community through digital marketing, social events, and advertising on local TV stations, newspapers, and magazines. They have been

working diligently in collaboration with other organizations to revive community involvement and outreach.

The committee requested more information about their marketing efforts, given the increased funding request. Ms. Bowlin explained that they have been very aggressive with their marketing strategies, attracting people from other areas and collaborating with the City on the Levitt grant, which aims to enhance the community's art culture. Chief Development Officer, Michael Ostrowski, provided further details to the committee about the Levitt grant and its role in supporting the City and the Arts Center, citing that the Arts Center would be the applicant on behalf of the city.

Committee member Greg Stafford left at 4:30 pm.

Item 3.3 discussion was placed on hold for the presentation of 3.7. The committee opened Item 3.3 for further discussion.

Recommendations:

Approved 21% with contingency, and strongly suggest they come back with an Arts for Tourism program.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Committee Member Rhianon Elizabeth Whitney and a second by Committee Member Kevin Davis, the Committee voted 8 for and 0 opposed, to recommend approval of the Arts Center of the Brazos Valley Fiscal Year 2026 funding request.

Recommended Approval

3.4. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on current Hotel Occupancy Tax Grant applications.

Assistant Director Jeremiah Cook updated the Committee on two Hotel Occupancy Tax Grant applications.

- Boomfit - BCS Classic - August 22, 2025
- Texas A&M University (RISC) - ASCE 2026 conference - February 23, 2026

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Committee Member Rhianon Elizabeth Whitney and a second by Committee Member Costa Dallis, the Committee voted 8 for and 0 opposed to approve the HOT Grant Application for Boomfit at \$15,000.

Upon a motion made by Committee Member Connor Clark and a second by Committee Member Jim Ross, the Committee voted 8 for and 0 opposed to approve the HOT Grant Application for Texas A&M University (RISC) at \$15,000.

3.5. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on future signature events.

Marketing Manager Angie Bertinot introduced to the Committee a potential future signature event in collaboration with Chefs for Farmers (CFF) and A21 Events. CFF and A21 are offering College Station a unique opportunity to quickly establish a successful culinary event by partnering with an established, award-winning brand known for its high-quality production, curated chef talent, and dedicated foodie following. Produced by A21 Events, Chefs for Farmers provides instant credibility, regional media exposure, and a built-in audience that would otherwise take years to develop organically. The mission of this event is to celebrate farm-to-table excellence and highlight local chefs, farmers, and makers, which aligns with College Station's agricultural

heritage and university strengths.

Committee members expressed concern about the lack of room nights produced by the event and the cost of a first-year event.

The committee recommended finding a different signature event that would belong to the City and partnering with Texas A&M or the Arts Center.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Committee Member Rhianon Elizabeth Whitney and a second by Committee Member Connor Clark, the Committee voted 0 for and 8 opposed to proceed with the Chef's for Farmers event.

3.6. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on data reports.

Assistant Director Jeremiah Cook reviewed data reports indicating that May was an excellent month, which included track and field events, as well as other sporting events and graduation. However, June has been challenging due to a decrease in events. For instance, the softball tournament was canceled due to rain on the second weekend. A more accurate report for June will be provided at the next meeting.

No Action taken

3.7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the steering of the Tourism Strategic Plan.

Staff members from Jones, Lang and LaSalle(JLL), including Dan Fenton (Managing Director, Practice Lead), Shirin Jafari (Vice President), and Abigail Harrod (Associate), provided updates on stakeholder interviews and asked if the Committee had any recommendations on anyone else they would like to have interviewed. JLL Staff reviewed the Tourism Readiness for the 75 data points under the different topics of Scale, Concentration, with Leisure, Business, Environmental Readiness, Urban Readiness, Safety and Security, and Policy Prioritization during the next meeting. JLL Staff provided the committee with a list of comparable cities to review, and asked if there are any others they would like to see on the list. Members of the Committee recommended that Amarillo, TX, along with Charlottesville, VA, be added, and Columbia, SC, be removed, along with looking at some similar schools close to Texas A&M.

No Action taken at this time.

4. Discussion and possible action on future agenda items.

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Recommendations:

Move the July and August meeting to start at 2:00 pm to get through all items, along with the possibility of limited presentation time.

5. Adjourn.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Committee Member Scott Logan and a second by Committee Member Paul Allen Loy, the Committee voted 8 for and 0 opposed, to Adjourn.

Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**Minutes Of The Tourism Committee
City Of College Station
May 28, 2025**



1. Call to order and introductions.

Present:

Committee Member Cortney Phillips, Chairperson
Committee Member Hunter Goodwin
Committee Member Rhianon Elizabeth Whitney
Committee Member Costa Dallis
Committee Member Paul Allen Loy
Committee Member Scott Logan
Committee Member Connor Clark
Committee Member Kevin Davis
Committee Member William L. Peel, Jr.
Committee Member Jim Ross
Committee Member Erin Jones - Non-Voting

Virtual:

Committee Member Brandy Tuck - Non-Voting

Absent:

Committee Member Greg Stafford, Vice Chairperson

City Staff:

Brian C. Woods, City Manager
Michael Ostrowski, Chief Development Officer
Jeremiah Cook, Assistant Director Tourism
Kelsey Heiden, Director Parks and Recreation
Brian Piscacek, Assistant Director of Economic Development
Jo Beth Wolfe, Convention Sales Manager
Alex Aguero, Sports Sales Manager
Angie Bertinot, Marketing Manager
Casey Barone, Visitor Center Engagement Manager
Lisa McCracken, Administrative Support Specialist

Chairperson Cortney Phillips called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

With a quorum present, the meeting of the Tourism Committee was called to order by Chairperson Cortney Phillips via In-Person and Teleconference at 3:02 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 in the Visitor Center Large Conference Room at 1207 Texas Ave., College Station, Texas 77840.

2. Hear Visitors.

At this time, the Chairperson will open the floor to citizens wishing to address issues not already scheduled on today's agenda. Each citizen's presentation will be limited to three minutes in order to

allow adequate time for the completion of the agenda items. Comments will be received and city staff may be asked to look into the matter, or the matter may be placed on a future agenda for discussion. A recording may be made of the meeting; please give your name and address for the record. No visitors were present.

3. Agenda Items

3.1. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the minutes of the previous meeting.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Committee Member Paul Allen Loy and a second by Committee Member William L. Peel, Jr., the committee voted 6 for and 0 opposed, to approve the minutes of the April 30th, 2025, meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Committee Member Jim Ross requested future minutes to include more information relating to discussions within the committee.

Approve

3.2. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on data reports.

Assistant Director Cook went over the monthly data reports for April 2025. Committee members discussed the how Texas A&M Parents' Weekend, Easter, Chilifest, and the the Maroon & White game impacted the tourism economy.

3.3. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the Convention Center Feasibility Study.

Chief Development Officer Michael Ostrowski gave an update on the Convention Center Feasibility Study, noting that phase two of the study will be delayed until July or August so that we can have further conversations with our stakeholders. Phase two will be presented to the City Council.

3.4. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on current Hotel Occupancy Grants and processes.

Assistant Director Cook presented the current hotel occupancy tax grant award process. Mr. Cook explained that moving forward the grant applications will be brought to the Committee for a recommendation.

Committee members discussed the role that grants play in bringing sports tournaments and conferences to College Station, including recurring events. Committee members also discussed the need to ensure that large events are incentivized at Texas A&M.

3.5. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on future signature events.

Committee members agreed to move this item to the June 25th, 2025 meeting due to time constraints.

3.6. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the steering of the Tourism Strategic Plan.

Staff from Jones, Lang, and LaSalle, including Dan Fenton (Managing Director Practice Lead), Shirin Jafari (Vice President), and Abigail Harrod (Associate) provided an overview of the completed items for the first phase of the strategic plan, along with what progress is being made on the second phase. An update was also given about the processes to come within the third and fourth phases of the strategic plan. Committee members participated in an activity discussing what they would like to see from a future tourism perspective. Committee members expressed the need for more large-scale events at Texas A&M, investment in music and small businesses, and the need for partnership with Texas A&M University.

4. Discussion and possible action on future agenda items.

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Committee member Davis requested a future agenda item on events at City-owned venues and parks. The committee agreed to place this on a future agenda.

5. Adjourn.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Committee Member Rhianon Elizabeth Whitney and a second by Committee Member William L. Peel, Jr., the Committee voted 9 for and 0 opposed, to adjourn at 5:20 pm. The motion carried unanimously.



College Station, TX
Minutes
Tourism Committee
1207 Texas Ave, College Station, TX 77840

The City Council may or may not attend this meeting.

April 30, 2025

3:00 PM

**Visit College Station Large
Conference Room**

Committee Members Present: Cortney Phillips, Costa Dallis, Paul Loy, Greg Stafford, Rhianon Whitney, Jim Ross, Connor Clark, Scott Logan, Hunter Goodwin (Virtual), Brandy Tuck (Virtual)

Committee Members Absent: Bill Peel, Kevin Davis

Staff Present: Michal Ostrowski, Jeremiah Cook, Kelsey Heiden, Jo Beth Wolfe, Alex Aguero, Angie Bertinot, Lisa McCracken

1. Call to order and introductions.

Chairperson Phillips called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Hear Visitors.

No visitors were present.

3. Agenda Items

3.1. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion by Committee Member Whitney to accept the minutes of the March 26th, 2025, meeting; seconded by Committee Member Loy. Motion carried: 9-0.

3.2. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on data reports from the previous month.

Staff reviewed the 2025 Convention and Sports Calendar and the Research Executive Summary for March 2025.

3.3. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the Tourism Strategic Plan.

Staff updated the committee on the progression of the Strategic Plan, with the expectation that Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) will be joining the committee virtually in May to begin the steering committee process.

3.4. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the Convention Center Feasibility Study.

Staff presented Phase 1 of the Convention Center Feasibility Study and updated that Hunden Partners is expected to bring Phase 2 of the study to the Council on June 12th.

3.5. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the FY25 use of the HOT Fund and FY26 Budget Requests.

Staff provided and update on the FY25 Budget and also went over the Service Level Adjustments (SLAs) proposed for FY26.

The Committee discussed the proposed SLAs and recommended that additional dollars be added to the HOT Grant account to ensure that the City had enough available dollars to secure additional events. In addition, the Committee discussed adding funding for the Holiday Kickoff event. Finally, the Committee discussed the positive impact that large events at Kyle Filed had this past summer and recommended that funding be included in the budget to support such events.

Committee members also discussed the proposed signature event, Chefs for Farmers. Committee Member Ross, while supportive of additional events, cited concerns with the potential return on investment for this specific type of event. The Committee agreed to have further conversations about the specifics of the signature event and asked staff to bring back additional details about Chefs for Farmers for further discussion.

Motion by Committee Member Clark to recommend approval of the FY26 Budget Service Level Adjustments presented by staff, except for the Chefs for Farmers item, with the following modifications:

- Increase the HOT Grants from \$75,000 to \$250,000, and make it recurring,
- Increase the Holiday Kickoff from \$50,000 to \$100,000, and
- Add \$250,000 to the one-time \$500,000 large-scale event account, to now total \$750,000, for a large-scale event with TAMU;

seconded by Committee Member Stafford. Motion carried 9-0.

Motion by Committee Member Whitney to recommend approval for a FY26 Budget Service Level Adjustment for a Signature Leisure Event in the amount of \$225,000; seconded by Committee Member Ross. Motion carried 9-0.

3.6. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on current Hotel Occupancy Grants and processes.

Motion by Member Loy to move this item to the May 28th meeting; seconded by Member Dallis. Motion carried 9-0.

4. Discussion and possible action on future agenda items.

No items were requested.

5. Adjourn.

Motion by Committee Member Dallis to adjourn at 5:41 PM; seconded by Committee Member Clark. Motion carried 9-0.

August 6, 2025
Item No. 3.4.
Update on Entrepreneurship Efforts

Sponsor: Wende Ragonis Anderson

Reviewed By CBC: Economic Development Committee

Agenda Caption: Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding an update on entrepreneurship efforts.

Relationship to Strategic Goals:

- Diverse & Growing Economy

Recommendation(s): Staff recommend that the committee receive the presentation and provide direction as desired.

Summary: Economic Development staff will provide an update on an emerging partnership with the Brazos Valley Small Business Development Center and Texas A&M's McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship to better facilitate local entrepreneurial efforts. The goal of this collaborative initiative, called CONNECT, is to bring together key stakeholders from local governments, higher education, economic development organizations, and area business support entities to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and support small business growth across the Brazos Valley.

The CONNECT mission is to:

- Connect entrepreneurs and small business leaders to local resources focused on education, mentorship, and support services
- Enhance coordination among agencies to maximize impact while minimizing duplication of efforts
- Foster innovation and small business success through a community-wide approach

Budget & Financial Summary: N/A

Attachments:

None