

**MINUTES
PHARR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION II
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025
118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR**

The Pharr Economic Development Corporation II met in a regular called meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. and the following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Member Comm. Dr. Ramiro Caballero
Board Member Comm. Ricardo Medina
Board Member Comm. Michael Pacheco
Board Member Mario Lizcano
Board Member Reynaldo Perez
Board Member Romeo Cantu

MEMBERS ABSENT: Board Member Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez

STAFF PRESENT: Victor Perez, PEDC President/CEO
Jonathan Flores, City Manager
Cynthia Garza, Assistant City Manager
Francisco Mendez, PEDC Accountant
Karina Lopez, PEDC Manager
Maribel Garcia, Executive Administrative Assistant

PEDC ATTORNEY: Jerry Muñoz

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

A) ROLL CALL AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EXCUSING OF ANY ABSENT BOARD MEMBER

Vice Chair, Mario Lizcano called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Board member Commissioner Ricardo Medina moved to excuse absent members. Board member Reynaldo Perez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Michael Pacheco entered the meeting at this time of the agenda time being 3:05 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Victor Perez, President/CEO led the pledge of allegiance Mario Lizcano, Board member said the invocation.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A) PEDC II EVENTS OF INTEREST.

Karina Lopez, Economic Development Manager, informed the Board about the upcoming PEDC II events. She stated that through our ongoing programming we are now hosting the second cohort of the Kauffman Fastrac program applications are now open to the public and the program would be starting May 7 to June 18, 2025.

Karina Lopez, Economic Development Manager, stated that this year the PEDC would be partnering with UTRGV to participate in RGV Startup Week, a week-long event focused on supporting entrepreneurs and small business across the RGV. This event would bring together entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders. She stated the event would take place May 1, 2025, at the Pharr Global Business Hub followed by an evening mixer at the PEDC backyard.

Karina Lopez, Economic Development Manager, further stated that Pharr EDC would partner with Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) to offer a free informational session for employers, focusing on providing businesses with the tools needed to strengthen and future-proof their workforce. This event took place at the Pharr Hub May 8, 2025.

Karina Lopez, Economic Development Manager, stated that Pharr EDC joined the city departments on the City Hall on Call community event to enhance engagement and provide information and resources from both the EDC and EDC Foundation. The event took place at the Pepe Salinas Event Center, May 13, 2025.

Karina Lopez, Economic Development Manager, invited the board to our Pharr EDC Foundation Scholarship Awards Ceremony May 14, 2025, at the Regency Hall in Pharr. She stated these scholarships are designed to support students in continuing their post-secondary education as they pursue their academic and career goals.

Karina Lopez, Economic Development Manager, further invited the board to the COMCE Zacatecas 2025 Commercial Mission event at the Forum Regency Hall May 15-16, 2025. She stated that the Pharr EDC hosted the COMCE Zacatecas 2025 Commercial Mission an international two-day event focused on produce and industrial development a comprehensive program feature participation from key agencies, including the Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Customs and Boarder Protection (CBP), UTRGV, Pharr International Bridge (PBI) and the Mexican Consulate.

B) SALES TAX REPORT – MARCH 2025.

Victor Perez, President/CEO informed the Board about the March Sales Tax Report he stated we had an increase of 13.27% compared to last year and 1.50% above budget, ranked number five compared to neighbor cities.

ITEM 4. REGULAR AGENDA – OPEN SESSION:

At this time, Vice Chair Mario Lizcano stated they would deviate from the agenda and go into a closed session. There was no objection.

ITEM 5. CLOSED SESSION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CGAPTER 551 TEXAS, GOVERNMENT CODE, VERNON’S TEXAS CODE ANNOTATED (OPEN MEETING ACT), THE PHARR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION II BOARD WILL MEET IN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION.

The time being 3:11 p.m. Vice Chair Mario Lizcano stated the PEDC II Board of Directors would be entering a closed session pursuant to Section 551.071 thru 551.087 of the Texas Government Code.

ITEM 6. RECONVENED:

Vice Chair, Mario Lizcano stated that the time being 3:40 p.m., the board will be resuming the meeting into Regular Session, and consider action, if necessary, on any item(s) discussed in closed session.

A) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 18, 2025, REGULAR CALLED MEETING AND FEBRUARY 22, 2025, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING.

Mario Lizcano, Vice Chair introduced the item and stated staff recommended approval as discussed in open session.

Board Member Commissioner Ramiro Caballero moved to approve. Board Member Reynaldo Perez seconded the motion and when put to a vote it carried unanimously.

B) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) FOR PROJECT TAF.

Victor Perez, President/CEO introduced the item and stated staff recommended approval as discussed in closed session.

Board Member Commissioner Ricardo Medina moved to approve. Board Member Reynaldo Perez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it was carried unanimously.

C) CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY ON LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) FOR PROJECT CASTLE.

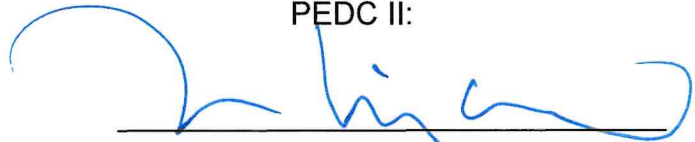
Victor Perez, President/CEO introduced the item and stated staff recommended approval as discussed in closed session.

Board Member Commissioner Ricardo Medina **moved** to approve. Board Member Reynaldo Perez seconded the motion and when put to a vote it carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Board Member Commissioner Ricardo Medina **moved** to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Board Member Reynaldo Perez and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

PEDC II:



Mario Lizcano, Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Commissioner Ramiro Caballero, Secretary

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF PHARR**

ON THIS 21ST DAY OF APRIL 2025 the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation of Pharr, Texas, convened in a **REGULAR CALLED MEETING** at the Commissioner's Room located at 118 S. Cage, 2nd Loor, Pharr, Texas. The meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting, giving the date, place, subject, hereof, having been posted in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code (Open Meeting Act) and there being present a quorum, **I MARIBEL GARCIA**, Executive Administrative Assistant of the Economic Development Corporation, of the city of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is true and correct copy of the minutes.

ATTEST:

Maribel Garcia

MARIBEL GARCIA, Executive Administrative Assistant

APPROVED: **May 28, 2025**