

Minutes

City of Simonton – Combined EDC A & B Board Meeting

This is a true and correct record of the Minutes for the Combined EDC A & B Board Meeting held on February 18, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

1: Call to Order – 6:02 PM

2: Invocation and Pledge – led by Stacey Gootee – EDC A

3: Public Comments – none were given

4: New Business

1. Discussion regarding future development and strategic growth planning initiatives, including engagement with a potential advisor/contractor to develop an outline for a comprehensive growth plan, ensuring alignment and continuity with the CPAC project deliverables.

Justin Boudreau – EDC A Board Chair – started the meeting by recapping why we were meeting – briefly stated the goals and introduced Joe Esch a local consultant previously contracted with the City in 2023-2024.

Mr. Esch – explained his background with education and work experience. Then he went on to discuss the functions of the EDC boards in relation to the City Council. He expounded upon the necessary training requirements for all EDC board members. Required training is as follows:

1. TEDC (Texas Economic Development Corp) - Sales Tax Training
2. Open Meetings and Public Information – OAG office
3. Cyber Security Training - only required if a board member has a city email address

Stacey Gootee – is going to research access to the OAG trainings as well as the TEDC trainings and forward this information to Justin Boudreau

Mr. Esch went on to explain best practices for EDC Boards --

1. Service agreement between EDC's and City Council
2. EDC's should have Administrative Policies/Procedures in place -- some may overlap and can be handled in tandem -- this will ensure that each board remains focused and nothing falls through the cracks
3. Simonton being a small city -- would usually rely on the City Secretary and the City Administrator and/or Finance Director to perform administrative functions regarding budgetary needs, meeting agendas and minutes, relationship building with the community at large, etc.
4. Each EDC must complete a yearly report/audit that is sent to the state CPA -- Stacey Gootee is going to handle this -- she will check to be sure all reporting is current

It was asked of by several board members -- where to begin. Mr. Esch advised that as a collective group we needed to decide or come up with an "Identity" for the city -- why do people want to live here? -- what keeps them here? What do we want our city to look like in 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, etc.

He advised us to set up immediate plans and plans for 5 years. Since the City has completed both the Strategic Plan and CPAC (Comprehensive Plan) he advised that all members should review both prior to next meeting and write down 5 key elements or goals to discuss to help develop and define objectives. He encouraged members to visit cities of similar size to see what they were doing and bring back what liked and didn't like about what they did or are doing.

Justin Boudreau and Mr. Esch were going to meet prior to the next meeting and to discuss what next steps should look like to get the project off the ground. Both EDC boards agreed that this was a top priority and was the next logical step.

The boards asked about contracting with Mr. Esch -- he stated that he wanted to work with the EDC's a bit longer in a more informal advisory role. The boards agreed this was amenable and thanked Mr. Esch for his time.

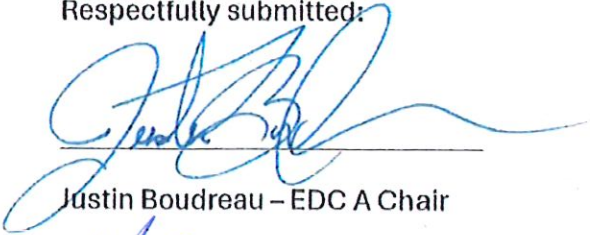
Mr. Esch reiterated his interest in assisting us and guiding Simonton. He is a local resident, and the coming development affects him as personally as it affects the residents of Simonton. He has a vested interest in helping our city grow in a fiscally responsible manner and helping us secure a bright future for generations.

No Action was taken as it was only discussion.

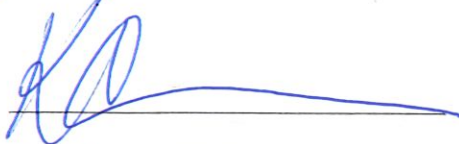
Meeting adjourned at 7:53

Proposed next meeting date set for March 10th @ 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin Boudreau", written over a horizontal line.

Justin Boudreau – EDC A Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelli Matula", written over a horizontal line.

Kelli Matula – EDC B Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cheyenne Graham", written over a horizontal line.

Cheyenne Graham, City Secretary