



Approved Meeting Minutes of a Special Called of the San Benito Economic Development Corporation will be held by In Person, Videoconference or Telephone Call, on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Board Meeting Presided by Mr. Julian Rios, President

Board Members Present

Mr. Julian Rios, President
Mr. Encarnacion Lopez, Vice President
Mr. Adrian Gonzalez, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Alex Salinas, Board Member,
Mrs. Deborah Morales, Board Member
Mayor Ricardo Guerra, Ex-Office Member

Board Members Absent

Mr. Jeremy Maya, Board Member
Mr. Ben Gomez, Board Member

EDC Staff Present

Mr. Ramiro Aleman, Executive Director
Mr. Angel Avila, Economic Development Specialist

EDC Staff Absent

Ms. Julia Landrum, Community & Marketing Manager

Others Present

Ms. Elisa Rosas, City of San Benito Finance Director
Mrs. Stephanie Sarrionandia, City of San Benito Assistant Finance Director
Mr. Mark Sossi, Attorney

1. Determination of a quorum (J. Rios)

Mr. Julian Rios made welcoming remarks and determined quorum for the March 28, 2023, Special Called Meeting.

2. Call to Order (J. Rios)

Mr. Julian Rios called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

3. Public Comments (J. Rios)

No Public Comments

4. Consider and possible action on funding a cohort of up to 10 participants for the Kauffman FastTrac New Venture Entrepreneurship Program through UTRGV (R. Aleman)

Mr. Ramiro Aleman will present this item regarding the Kauffman Entrepreneurship program provided by the UTRGV partnership. Although, most services provided by UTRGV are available at zero to no cost, the Kauffman program will require viable applicants to pay a class fee. However, the EDC is offering 10 individuals a scholarship for this program from an approved budget amount and from our sponsor, Texas Reginal Bank.

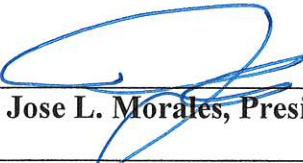
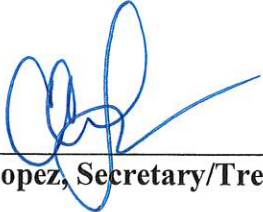
To be considered or accepted for the opportunity, every applicant must undergo a selection process. Applicants can be anyone entrepreneur or small business owner from San Benito that is seeking for help starting or expanding. They must fill out an application through UTRGV. Every complete, submitted application will be scored on a matrix system which will help determine who is best suited to receive a scholarship for the Kauffman program. Recipients will be determined by a board of 3 selection board members. There will 1 spot for the sponsor, 1 for an EDC staff member, plus 1 additional spot.

Upon input **Mr. Jose L. Morales** commented on how this program will be good for development in San Benito. The EDC should also be involved in harboring business and with UTRGV's classes and programs, resources are available to act on the developmental branch of the EDC. A motion was made by **Mr. Alex Salinas** to approve of Kauffman program. The motion was seconded by **Mr. Adrian Gonzalez**. Upon a unanimous vote the motion carried.

5. Meeting Adjournment (J. Rios)

A motion to adjourn meeting at 6:00 P.M was made by **Mr. Ben Gomez** This motion was seconded by **Mrs. Deborah Morales**. Upon unanimous vote, the motion was carried.

Approved this 20th day of July 2023.

	
Jose L. Morales, President	Claudia Lopez, Secretary/Treasurer