



**ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
*Wednesday, April 17, 2024***

The Economic Prosperity Commission convened in a **REGULAR CALLED** meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 301 W. 2nd Street, Room 1101, Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Michael Nahas called the Economic Prosperity Commission Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

- **Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance in Person:** Luis Osta Lugo (8), Michael Nahas (4), Rodrigo Cantu (5)
- **Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:** Kelsey Hitchingham (10), Christiana Ponder (1), Amy Noel (7)
- **Absent:** Laura Dixon (Mayor), Benjamin Salazar (2), Raquel Valdez Sanchez (3)
- **Vacancy:** District 6, District 9

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Economic Prosperity Commission Regular Meeting on March 20, 2024.

The minutes from the meeting of March 20, 2024, were approved on Commissioner Osta Lugo’s motion, Commissioner Nahas’ second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioners Dixon, Salazar, and Valdez Sanchez were absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Discuss and approve the commission’s potential recommendations to City Council for the City’s FY 2024-2025 budget. Drafts of these recommendations were introduced at the commission’s March 20, 2024 meeting; however, due to a loss of quorum during the meeting, the commission did not take action on any recommendation.

- **Recommendation 20240417-002A (Renters):** Approved, as amended, on Commissioner Nahas’ motion, Commissioner Osta Lugo’s second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioners Dixon, Salazar, and Valdez Sanchez were absent.

- **Recommendation 20240417-002B (Retirement Programs):** Commission declined to take action on this recommendation.
 - **Recommendation 20240417-002C (Sales-Tax Income):** The motion to approve this recommendation failed on Commissioner Nahas’ motion, Commissioner Osta Lugo’s second. Those voting aye were: Commissioners Nahas, Osta Lugo, Cantu, Hitchingham, and Ponder. Those voting nay were: Commissioner Noel. Commissioners Dixon, Salazar, and Valdez Sanchez were absent.
3. Conduct officer elections for Chair and Vice Chair for one-year terms of office from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.
- **The motion to approve Commissioner Nahas for Chair was approved on Commissioner Hitchingham’s motion, Commissioner Osta Lugo’s second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioner Nahas accepted the nomination. Commissioners Dixon, Salazar, and Valdez Sanchez were absent.**
 - **The motion to approve Commissioner Osta Lugo for Vice Chair was approved on Commissioner Nahas’ motion, Commissioner Hitchingham’s second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioner Osta Lugo accepted the nomination. Commissioners Dixon, Salazar, and Valdez Sanchez were absent.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Presentation by Michael Ward Jr. on Austin Urban Technology Movement’s tech ecosystem that eliminates poverty through expanding technology skills, apprenticeships, digital equity, workforce development, and job placement assistance in our society.
Michael Ward presented an overview of how the AUTMHQ fills the technical skills gap, its Awareness-to-Employment Pipeline, and various other work.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

5. Updates from the Jobs, Procurement, and Infrastructure working groups on the established focus and current findings of each group.
No updates were provided.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Discuss commission priorities over the next year.
- Discuss how the commission’s Jobs, Procurement, and Infrastructure working groups operate and communicate.
- Consider inviting City of Austin Employees’ Retirement System (COAERS) staff and/or City of Austin budget office staff to a future meeting, topics TBD.

Chair Hitchingham adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m. without objection.

These minutes were approved at the May 15, 2024 meeting on Commissioner Valdez Sanchez's motion, Vice Chair Osta Lugo's second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioners Salazar, Dixon, Noel and Hitchingham were absent.