PEDC
Pensacola-Escambia
Promotion & Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

PEDC Board of Directors Meeting

April 21, 2026 Time: 10:00 a.m.
CO:LAB 418 W Garden St. Pensacola
First Floor Conference Room

Minutes

1. **Call to Order**
   Chairman David Peaden called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **Public Notice**
   Staff confirmed the meeting was publicly noticed on April 2, 2026.

3. **Attendance**

Chairman David Peaden	Present
Commissioner Steven Barry	Present
City Councilwoman Allison Patton	Present
Commissioner Steve Stroberger	Present
Mayor Benjamin Boutwell (Town of Century appointee)	Present
City Councilman Casey Jones	Absent
Dr. LuSharon Wiley	Absent
Dave Hoxeng	Present
Ryan Tilley	Present
Donnie McMahon (FloridaWest appointee)	Absent

4. **Public Comment**
   Chairman Peaden recognized the public and opened the floor for public comment. Brian Wyer of the Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce thanked FloridaWest for its support and involvement and announced the next Business Development Event upcoming in August.

5. **Approval of the Agenda**
   Councilwoman Patton moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Barry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Financials**
   Mr. Platé presented the current financial statements.
   Commissioner Barry moved to approve the March financials as presented; Mayor Boutwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Approval of Minutes**
   Commissioner Barry moved to approve the March 24, 2026, meeting minutes; Councilwoman Patton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Project & Staff Updates:**
   a. Community Demographics
   Mr. Platé presented an update regarding recent economic and demographic data.

   b. Project Activity
   Mr. Platé presented an update regarding recent prospect activities, preparations for Farnborough in July 2026, and a wage summary in conjunction with Career Escarosa.

   c. Product Development
   Mr. Platé provided an update on upcoming events, including a Florida Commerce presentation on April 22, 2026, regarding opportunity zones. Staff is working with Florida Commerce to confirm final opportunity zoning criteria for submission.

   Mr. Platé presented an update on recent product development activities, including Pensacola Technology Campus, Midtown Commerce Park, The Bluffs, Tech Park, Outlying Fields, and Central Commerce Park.

   Mr. Platé presented a proposed land option agreement with Escambia County for industrial parcels.

   Commissioner Barry moved to approve issuing a Request for Qualification to enable staff to form a pool of approved engineers and surveyors pursuant to section 287.055; Councilwoman Patton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

   d. Marketing Update
   Mr. Platé presented an update on marketing activities, including NewsRadio 92.3, FloridaWest marketing committee, and recent social media activities.

   Commissioner Barry moved to approve the new proposed logo as presented; Councilwoman Patton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

   e. CO:Lab Update
   Mr. Platé presented an update on CO:Lab tenant agreements and revenues.

   f. FTZ Update
   Mrs. Andrews presented an update on foreign trade zone activities and recent approval from the Foreign Trade Zone Board.

9. **Other Business:**
   Community Partners Update
   Mayor Boutwell provided an update on Century's rural designation, opportunity zone prospects, recent projects, and coordination with Escambia County.

   Councilwoman Patton provided an update on City activities, including the Palafox repaving project.

   Commissioner Barry provided an update on Escambia County activities.

10. **Adjournment:**

Chairman Peaden adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.