

Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory Board
Minutes – November 20, 2025

1. Call to Order: Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. Roll Call: Chairman Richardson; Directors Rhoades, Pearson, Rodriguez, Boman, and Kennedy were present. Director Ritchie via teleconference.

Staff: Holly Wharton – Economic Development Director, Trey Hildebrand – IT Manager, and Joni Ary – Recording Clerk.

3. Citizens with Input – None.
4. Guests and Speakers.- None.

5. New Business

- a. Approve October 16, 2025, Minutes

Director Rhoades motioned to approve as submitted; Director Pearson seconded; all in favor, and it was unanimously approved.

- b. Approve October 2025 Financials

Director Rhoades motioned to approve as submitted; Director Bowman seconded; all in favor, and it was unanimously approved.

- c. November Speaker Series Event Review – Grub & Grow

Chairman Richardson expressed his appreciation for the event and thought it was very engaging and helpful for everyone who attended. Chairman Richardson thanked the Board members who attended and is super excited about the upcoming events for this Board. The event provided resources to veterans and their families.

- d. Technology-Based Incentive Policy Discussion

Ms. Wharton reviewed the proposed Technology-Focused Incentive program. Ms. Wharton stated that the City Attorney is currently reviewing the policy and would recommend that, if the Board concurs, the policy move forward to City Council. Chairman Richardson motioned to approve proceeding with the policy for City Council review. Director Rhoades seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- e. 2026 Program Planning

Ms. Wharton stated that she will have more details regarding the Start-up Summit at the next meeting. Ms. Wharton proposed holding the Kid Entrepreneurship Lemonade stand event in conjunction with the City's Summer Breeze Block party on May 16, 2026. All members concurred with the proposal to have the event in conjunction with the City event. Ms. Wharton asked the Board to consider suggestions for topics for the Speaker Series.

6. Staff Items

a. Monthly Updates:

Ms. Wharton stated that the City of Perry completed the election cycle, that Mayor Walker was re-elected, and that the City appointed Mr. Robert Smith as City Manager.

Food Truck Friday will be held tomorrow in Downtown Perry from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm with an “Ugly Christmas Sweater” theme.

7. Member Items –

Director Rhoades stated that the Museum of Aviation will host a Marathon, half-marathon, para-athletes, and a 5K on January 31, 2026, from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Director Pearson reviewed his PowerPoint presentation, “Capital Strategy,” with the Board. The presentation took a person through different scenarios on how a business begins and how different funding and investments can affect it. Director Pearson shared his own personal experience starting a business. The Board thanked Director Pearson for his presentation and asked that everyone receive a copy.

8. Adjournment – there being no further business to come before the Board, Director Rhoades motioned to adjourn the meeting; Director Rodriguez seconded; all in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Approved 12.18.25