

Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory Board
Minutes – March 19, 2026

1. Call to Order: Vice Chairman Rhoades called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm.
2. Roll Call: Vice Chairman Rhoades, Directors Boman and Rodriguez were present.

Chairman Richardson, Director Pearson, Kennedy, and Ritchie were absent.

Staff: Holly Wharton – Economic Development Director, and Joni Ary – Recording Clerk

3. Citizens with Input – None
4. Guests and Speakers – None
5. New Business
 - a. Approve January 15, 2026, Minutes

Vice Chairman Rhoades stated that since there was no quorum, this item will be deferred to the April 16th meeting.

- b. Approve January 2026 and February 2026 Financials

Vice Chairman Rhoades stated that since there was no quorum, this item will be deferred to the April 16th meeting.

- c. 2026 Startup Summit Event Recap

Ms. Wharton provided a recap of the 2026 Startup Summit, held on February 19th; it was very well attended, with 65 participants and 10 ESO vendors. We received positive feedback from the event, with participants stating that the overall quality and experience were amazing. Some suggested changes include adding another day to the event and shortening lunchtime. Ms. Wharton stated she will start planning for the next summit.

Ms. Wharton asked for guidance on three vendors who were recognized as sponsors at the event but have not paid for their sponsorship. The Board concurred to reach out to the three vendors and invoice them for the sponsorship fees.

- d. 2026 Speaker Series Program Planning

Ms. Wharton stated that the next speaker series will focus on agricultural progress. Director Rodriguez will work with Ms. Wharton to gather information relative to farming and where to begin.

6. Staff Items

a. Monthly Updates.

Ms. Wharton stated that she is still working with Spark Macon on the Lemonade Stand for the City's Summer Breeze event on May 15. Chairman Richardson stated he will reach out to a member of the Spark Macon board for their support with the City's event.

Ms. Wharton stated that she has begun work on a technology-focused marketing flyer that, once approved, will be added to the City's website and the Museum of Aviation. Will bring something for review at our next meeting.

Ms. Wharton stated that at the next meeting on April 16th, we are planning to visit The Farm at 3:00 pm, the new Hotel/Restaurant at the Fairgrounds at 4:00 pm, and meet back at City Hall for the meeting at 5:30 pm. Ms. Wharton will send email reminder invitations for these events.

Ms. Wharton asked if any Board members would like to attend the next City Council Worksession on April 6th at 5:00 pm to speak to the Council on what the Technology and Entrepreneurship Board is currently working on. Vice Chairman Rhodes stated that he would attend and speak on behalf of the Board to the Council.

7. Member Items

None.

8. Adjourn: there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.