



# CITY OF MILPITAS

## Economic Development and Trade Commission

---

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 3, 2025

Room A203

Milpitas Unified School District Innovation Campus

1331 E. Calaveras Blvd. Milpitas

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Norwood called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A Milpitas Unified School District staff member led the pledge of allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

Economic Development Specialist Kal Zubair called the roll.

**PRESENT:** Chair Chris Norwood, Vice Chair Rice, Commissioners Larry Ciardella, Parkash Daryani, Jacob Sanchez.

Alternate #1 Conrad Schapira

Alternate #2 Michael Nguyen

Staff: Director of Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives Alex Andrade, Economic Development Coordinator Michael Thomas, and Economic Development Specialist Kal Zubair

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Bill Bhagvat

#### SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Alternate Member No. 1: Conrad Shapira was seated in the Commission's technology seat.

Alternate Member No. 2: Michael Nguyen was seated in place of Commissioner Bhagvat.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Recommended Action:** Approve November 3, 2025 special meeting agenda of the Economic Development & Trade Commission as submitted.

**Mover / Seconder:** Rice / Schapira

**Motion carried by a vote of:** AYES: 6 NOES: 0

**Ayes:** Norwood, Rice, Ciardella, Daryani, Sanchez, Schapira

**Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Recommended Action:** Approve October 13, 2025 meeting minutes of the Economic Development & Trade Commission as submitted.

**Mover / Seconder:** Schapira / Rice

**Motion carried by a vote of:** AYES: 6 NOES: 0

**Ayes:** Norwood, Rice, Ciardella, Daryani, Sanchez, Schapira.

**Noes:** None **Abstentions:** Rice

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No speakers provided comments. Alternate Nguyen arrived at 4:36 PM

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Chair Rice informed the Commission that the Great Mall's Diwali celebration that was held on Saturday, October 18 and noted its success.

Commissioner Ciardella reported that the Chamber of Commerce's Awards Banquet was a success. Mr. Ciardella notified the Commission that Dr. Tomo was awarded the Small Businessperson of the Year, and Debbie Giordano was awarded the Citizen of the Year.

Councilmember Lam reported that City Council approved the Gateway Main Street Specific Plan at the October 28 City Council meeting.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**9a. Tour of the Milpitas Unified School District's (MUSD) Innovation Campus – Chair Chris Norwood**

**Recommended Action:** Receive a tour of the Innovation Campus and a presentation on MUSD's workforce development initiatives, including job fairs, adult education course offerings, and the construction of a third building. This item's nexus is the Commission's Work Plan (Workforce Development & Education) and Economic Development Element Policy ED 5: Increase community workforce preparedness and cultivate an entrepreneurial environment that fosters innovation.

Chair Norwood introduced the business item and MUSD Superintendent Cheryl Jordan led the tour. Superintendent Jordan and Principal Carl Stice provided a presentation after the tour.

No public comment was provided.

Commissioners discussed the details of the tour and presentation and asked clarifying questions.

**Mover / Seconder:** Schapira / Daryani

**Motion carried by a vote of:** AYES: 7 NOES: 0

**Ayes:** Norwood, Rice, Ciardella, Daryani, Sanchez, Schapira, Nguyen

**Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

**9b. Small Business Development Strategy – Alex Andrade, Director of Economic Development**

Recommended Action: Receive answers to Commissioners' questions from the Small Business Development Strategy presentation on October 13, 2025. This item's nexus is the Commission's Workplan and Economic Development Element Policy 5-3: Provide support to small businesses and entrepreneurs to help them start and expand their companies in Milpitas.

Chair Norwood introduced the business item, and Director Andrade and Specialist Zubair provided answers to Commissioners' questions.

No public comment was provided.

**Mover / Secunder:** Sanchez / Schapira

**Motion carried by a vote of:** AYES: 7 NOES: 0

**Ayes:** Norwood, Rice, Ciardella, Daryani, Sanchez, Schapira, Nguyen

**Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

Chair Norwood yielded the gavel to Vice-Chair Rice and left the meeting at 5:30 PM.

### **9c. Taste of Milpitas - Michael Thomas, Economic Development Coordinator**

Recommendation: Receive an overview of the City's plan to hold a Taste of Milpitas event at the City Hall rotunda on January 30, 2026.

Vice Chair Rice introduced the business item, and Coordinator Thomas provided a presentation on the staff's preparations for the Super Bowl.

No public comment was provided.

Commissioners discussed the details of the presentation and asked clarifying questions.

**Mover / Secunder:** Schapira / Daryani

**Motion carried by a vote of:** AYES: 6 NOES: 0

**Ayes:** Rice, Ciardella, Daryani, Sanchez, Schapira, Nguyen

**Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Mover/Secunder:** Daryani / Schapira

**Motion carried by a vote of:** AYES: 6 NOES: 0

**Ayes:** Rice, Ciardella, Daryani, Sanchez, Schapira, Nguyen

**Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

