

Minutes of the Regular Called Main Street Advisory Board Meeting of April 28, 2026

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF ANDERSON §
CITY OF PALESTINE §

The Main Street Advisory Board of the City of Palestine convened in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in the City Hall Council Chamber Room at City Hall, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present: Chair; April Shaner, Vice Chair; Anja Cline, Board Members Crystal Cartwright, Johnathan Rodgers and Jean Mollard.

Staff present: City Manager Corby Neal and EDC Director Christophe Trahan.

Board members Amanda Conley and Nicole Weinman were absent.

Others present: Timothy Triplett.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair April Shaner called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

PROPOSED CHANGES OF AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

~~Consider approval of the~~ special meeting minutes of April 08, 2026. Motion by Board Member Jean Mollard, seconded by Vice Chair Anja Cline to approve item as presented. Upon vote, motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a Sign Permit Application for 213 W. Oak St. – Motion by Board Member Jean Mollard, seconded by Chair April Shaner to approve item as presented. Upon vote motion carried 4-0.

-Timothy Triplett entered at 9:04 a.m.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding opportunities for collaboration between the Main Street Advisory Board and other stakeholders for upcoming activities and events.

- **May 2nd**-Derby Day: The Farmer's Market is partnering with Mainstreet, Anderson County Child Welfare and Palestine Regional Medical Center to help host the 4th Annual Derby Day.
- **May 9th**-United Way Literacy Day Event
- **June 19th**- Juneteenth Celebration: Community/Mpact is hosting its 2nd annual Juneteenth Celebration. EDC Director Christophe Trahan and April are connecting with the host committee to discuss how Mainstreet could collaborate and participate in this event taking place in the Mainstreet district.
- **July 3rd-4th**: America 250- The Visitor's Center is hosting a celebration at Steven Bennett Park on July 3rd and in the Mainstreet District on July 4th to commemorate America's 250th anniversary. The board reached a consensus to encourage businesses in the Mainstreet District to participate by decorating their storefronts to match the theme. Chair April Shaner mentioned that the Visitor's Center would like to distribute information about various events happening at local businesses during the America 250 celebration. She plans to visit the businesses to see who is open and what events they are hosting.

EDC Director Christophe Trahan will ensure that the information is aggregated in a timely manner according to the details provided by Visitor's Center Director Cassie Ham, in order to maximize opportunities for these businesses.

EDC Director Christophe Trahan asked Chair April Shaner to speak with Chase Calloway of The Journey HQ to see if he would be interested in providing a hayride to attendees at America 250.

-Board Member Johnathan Rodgers entered at 9:21 a.m.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding existing fundraising efforts and the development of new or replacement revenue strategies to support Main Street beautification projects.

Board member Jean Mollard discussed the need to update the lighting fixed to buildings in the Mainstreet district. EDC Director Christophe Trahan mentioned that if they can identify the building owners, the EDC could assist through their Community Development Grant and Downtown Grant programs. Mollard suggested that Hugh Summers could help find out who owns the lights. The EDC Director indicated he would look into previous grants that were awarded for the lights to help pinpoint ownership.

EDC Director Christophe Trahan discussed the Downtown Rotary's initiative to install benches in the area. Board member Crystal Cartwright agreed to assess locations for the installation of benches, trash cans, and sculptures throughout downtown.

Chair April Shaner proposed that the board could maintain the plants in the cabooses by partnering with Master Gardeners or fundraising to hire someone for maintenance. Board member Anja Cline mentioned that she would look into ordering additional cabooses for businesses that do not currently have one. Board member Crystal Cartwright suggested that the board consider installing rock features or fountains instead of plants to reduce the stress of finding someone for maintenance.

Chair April Shaner also recommended that the board research various types of lighting or artwork they would like to see downtown over the next 30 days and present their findings at the next Mainstreet Advisory Board meeting on May 26, 2026.

EDC Director Christophe Trahan asked Board Member Jean Mollard to serve as the liaison between the Downtown Rotary and the Main Street Advisory Board in working together to complete the design for benches downtown.

Board member Jean Mollard stated that she will research the upper lighting and examine their past implementations.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed updates to the Main Street Sign District sign ordinance language and potential board member participation in a Planning & Zoning subcommittee for further review.

Chair April Shaner, Board Member Jean Mollard, and Board Member Crystal Cartwright met with Planning & Zoning Board Chair Kristy Wages to discuss the language of the Mainstreet Sign District Ordinance. During this meeting, it was decided that a subcommittee should be formed, consisting of members from the Planning and Zoning Board, the Mainstreet Board, downtown business owners, property owners, and other interested stakeholders.

Motion by Chair April Saner, seconded by Board Member Johnathan Rodgers to designate board members Anja Cline, Jean Mollard and Crystal Cartwright to participate in the Planning & Zoning subcommittee for the ordinance review. Upon vote, motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned by Chair April Shaner at 10:32 a.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF May 2026.


April Shaner, Board Chair

ATTEST

Melissa Temple, EDC Administrative Assitant