

**CHESHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014 AT 7:30 A.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 207/209**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman David Pelletier, Dan O'Connell, Steve Sidoruk, William Stanley and Ray Voelker
(arrived at 7:35 a.m.)

Commissioner Absent:

Michael Ecke and Lori Rusnack

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator; William Voelker, Town Planner (arrived at
8:10 a.m.)

Others Present:

Arthur Hostage, former Economic Development Commissioner

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pelletier called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Special Meeting September 30, 2014

MOTION by Mr. Stanley that the minutes from the September 30, 2014 Special Meeting of the Economic Development Commission be accepted as submitted. **SECONDED** by Mr. O’Connell.

The motion passed unanimously by all present.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko stated that he received an email from Kelly Lenz of the Education Department, which stated that 92 business officials attended the Career Fair held for sophomores at Cheshire High School recently, including many manufacturers. She will be working to arrange for some Middle School students to tour some local manufacturers in the Spring.

VII. BUSINESS

A) Discussion with Representative of Macy’s Logistics

Chairman Pelletier stated that the representative of Macy’s Logistics is not able to attend this morning’s meeting.

B) Speakers for Future Meetings

Commissioners talked about inviting representative(s) of UTC, Conn-Tech, Bozzuto’s and Paws Pet Resort to attend future meetings of the Economic Development Commission.

C) Plan of Conservation and Development

Chairman Pelletier welcomed Town Planner, William Voelker to the Commission meeting to discuss the status of the Plan of Conservation and Development for Cheshire. Mr. Voelker had provided drafts of his write ups for the Commercial and Industrial areas of Cheshire as well as maps with the Regional Planning Committee has provided for Cheshire. Mr. Voelker reviewed some of the highlights of the Policy Overviews, noting that he would like to see an increase in lot coverage from 25% to 35% in the Industrial areas of Town. Mr. Voelker noted that there are not a lot of opportunities for changes in the Commercial areas of Cheshire.

Mr. Hostage asked about increasing height restrictions and Mr. Voelker noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission recently increased height restrictions based on setbacks.

Mr. Voelker noted that he and the Plan of Development Committee will continue to finalize the Town's Plan and then it will go to the Town Council for their review. He asked that if the Economic Development Commission were to submit any letters regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development for Cheshire, that the Town Council be copied. Chairman Pelletier suggested that Commissioners take some time to review the drafts that Mr. Voelker provided so that a discussion can be held at a future meeting before the Economic Development Commission submits comments.

D) C-PACE

Mr. Sitko stated that the Collector of Revenue had some concerns with the C-PACE program contract and the Town Attorney is reviewing it at this time. The latest update is that the Town is almost ready to sign the contract and move forward. Mr. Sitko would like to plan a breakfast in late November or early December with commercial, industrial and agricultural business in Cheshire to discuss the C-Pace program. He will be working on behalf of the Economic Development Commission with the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Energy Commission to plan this event, which will probably be held at Elim Park.

E) Program with Department of Labor and Cheshire Manufacturers

Chairman Pelletier stated that Mr. Sitko is working to put together a program with the Connecticut Department of Labor for the businesses in Town for the various incentives they are offering. Chairman Pelletier suggested that the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development be coordinated with the Department of Labor for this event. It was suggested that this event could be held in conjunction with Business Appreciation Day in 2015 but Chairman Pelletier stated that he is not sure it would get the same turnout. It was agreed that this would not be the main topic for the Business Appreciation Day celebration but rather there could be tables with representatives from the Department of Labor and Department of Economic and Community Development at the event with information, handouts and be available for questions. It was also suggested that representatives for C-Pace and CT Rides should be at the Business Appreciation Day event.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that CPTV will be broadcasting a show on Thursday night on Connecticut Manufacturing, which looks to be interesting.

Mr. Sitko stated that he will be working with Kelly Lenz along with teachers and guidance counselors at Dodd Middle School to arrange tours for students at manufacturing companies this Spring. Mr. O'Connell stated that it was a good idea to expose Middle School and High School students to manufacturers, especially high technology manufacturing. He sees this as a big job growth area for the future for well-compensated jobs compared to pursuing multiple college degrees. Mr. O'Connell agreed to work with Mr. Sitko and Ms. Lenz in planning this event.

F) Bedding Plant Capital of CT

Mr. Sitko stated that he would like to do more to expand and make a better use of the Bedding Plant Capital of Connecticut designation that Cheshire has by adding it to the Town's letterhead and making it more prominent on the Town web site.

Chairman Pelletier suggested that a billboard or some type of signage be put along Interstate 691 to promote business and the Bedding Plant community of Cheshire (similar to the sign in Southington at the Queen Street exit off of Interstate 84. Mr. Sitko stated that he agreed that some type of signage along I-691 would be a good idea.

Mr. Sidoruk suggested that Cheshire High School students could do an introductory video of Cheshire that could be put on the Town web site. Perhaps the kids could produce the video in conjunction with a marketing class / project. Mr. O'Connell agreed and stated that it would be a great experience for the kids and for the branding of the Town.

G) Liaison Reports

There were no Liaisons present at this meeting of the Economic Development Commission.

H) Coordinator's Report

Mr. Sitko stated that VR Osteria (formerly Luca) opened recently and seems to be doing quite well. He added that the new owner of the restaurant has put a lot of money into the building, both inside and out.

Wayback Burgers is holding a Grand Opening celebration this weekend, beginning with a ribbon-cutting event at Noon on October 24th.

Cheshire has hired a new Building Official, Keith Darwin, who will be starting in a few weeks.

Ball & Socket Arts purchased the West Main Street property last month and now remediation agreements are being finalized.

Mr. Sitko has included the Town Manager's Goals and Objectives for 2015 in the packet for Commissioners to review, noting that the development of vacant property in high profile locations in Cheshire is one of the items listed.

I) Other

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stanley to adjourned the October 21st meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 8:53 a.m.; **SECONDED** by Mr. Sidoruk.

The motion passed unanimously by all present.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary