

**CHESHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015 AT 7:30 A.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 207/209**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman David Pelletier, Derek Gromko, William Stanley and Ray Voelker

Commissioner Absent:

Dan O'Connell and Steve Sidoruk

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pelletier called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 – Regular Meeting April 21, 2015

MOTION by Mr. Stanley that the minutes from the April 21, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission be accepted as submitted. **SECONDED** by Mr. Voelker.

The motion passed unanimously by all present.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A) Roster of EDC Members

An updated roster of Economic Development Commission members was prepared and share with Commissioners.

VIII. BUSINESS

A) Discussion with Sylvia Nichols of the CT Florist Association

Ms. Nichols was unable to attend this meeting of the Economic Development Commission and it was agreed that arrangement should be made to re-schedule with her for another future meeting.

B) Speakers for Future Meetings

Commissioners suggested re-inviting Sylvia Nichols, of Connecticut Florist Association to a future Economic Development Commission meeting. There was also discussion amongst Commissioners to invite Conntech, UTC Aerospace or HD Segur Insurance to a future meeting.

Chairman Pelletier asked if there is any money available in the Commission's budget to honor / congratulate local businesses on significant anniversaries in business. There was some discussion about running and advertisement in the Cheshire Herald and possibly working with the Chamber of Commerce on this project.

Mr. Sitko stated that the Commission has talked about doing something like this at the Business Appreciation Day; Chairman Pelletier replied that it could still be done at the Business Appreciation Day but perhaps an ad can be run closer to the actual anniversary date. Mr. Gromko stated that he would bring this up to the Chamber of Commerce.

C) Cheshire Public Schools and Career Paths

Mr. Sitko gave an update on the latest meetings / discussions related to joint venture with the schools and local businesses. He also talked about the meeting with the

Cheshire High School Robotics Team. Commissioners are hopeful that meeting with continue over the Summer so that the program is ready for the new school year this Fall.

D) Program with Connecticut Department of Labor

Mr. Sitko stated that he is working with a Business Services Specialist with the Connecticut Department of Labor on a program to familiarize Cheshire companies on the variety of services and programs provided by the Department of Labor. The event will be a breakfast on June 30th either at Paul's Restaurant or possibly at Cheshire Academy. Mr. Sitko stated that he will be partnering with the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce for this program.

E) Liaison Reports

Mr. Gromko, Liaison from the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce stated that the Chambers Business After Hours Summer Kick Off is June 18th at Copper Valley Beach Club. The Chamber is sponsoring a Carnival at Bartlem Park July 16th – 18th. The Chamber is looking to recruit Food Trucks for Friday, July 17th, which will also coincide with a Friday night concert in the Park. Planning is underway for the Fall Festival on Saturday, September 12th. In the planning, there is talk of a Food Truck Festival on Friday Night, September 11th to kick off the weekend. Mr. Stanley suggested that for all the work that is put into the Fall Festival, maybe the Chamber should think of expanding and holding the event on both Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Gromko noted that there will be fireworks again this year at the Fall Festival.

F) Coordinator's Report

Mr. Sitko stated that W/S Development recently received a 1 year extension on it's earth grading permit. As far as the Town is concerned, they still believe W/S Development is committed to their proposed project in the Interchange Zone.

Mr. Sitko reported that Ball & Socket Arts is working with the Town on the remediation of the their property on West Main Street. They have also approached the Town about setting up over the Summer for a Pop Up Art Gallery but the Building Office and Fire Marshal's Office have a lot of concerns at this point bringing the public on to the property. Therefore Ball & Socket Arts is talking to the Strollo's about possibly using their property near Pop's Pizza as another option.

Mr. Sitko stated that Logo Sports (aka Café Press) has outgrown it's Cornwall Avenue location. They did look at a location on West Johnson Avenue but have decided that they will be moving to Wallingford instead. Mr. Sitko noted that the 12,000 SF building on Cornwall Avenue will be available after Logo Sports moves out.

The Town has hired an Engineering Company to help design 1800 linear feet of sidewalk along West Main Street, 600 of which will require retaining walls. The Town of

Cheshire has applied for another STEAP Grant for this project in the amount of \$400,000.

Mr. Sitko stated that 2 properties on Fieldstone Court are under contract for two office buildings. The former Rapoport property on Highland Avenue, just past the former Jordan Caterer building, is actively being looked at for development. An indoor recreation facility is looking at a building on this property.

A draft letter regarding C-PACE is being reviewed by the Town Manager's Office and once approved will be going out to local businesses. There will also be a mailing in June related to CTfastrak.

Mr. Sitko stated that he has spoken to the property owner of 7-Eleven on South Main Street about the property condition and he is hopeful there will be some updates done.

When asked, Mr. Sitko stated that the owner of Viron Rondo Osteria restaurant on Highland Avenue is continuing to look into parking options for his restaurant to help with the overflow during peak times.

Sean Strollo has moved his automotive business to 1525 Highland Avenue from West Main Street.

Mr. Sitko suggested that the Commissioners talk at the next meeting about their preferences for the July and August Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission.

G) Other

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pelletier adjourned the May 19th meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 8:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary