

**CHESHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015 AT 7:30 A.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 207/209**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman David Pelletier, Derek Gromko, Dan O’Connell, Steve Sidoruk, William Stanley and Ray Voelker

Commissioner Absent:

None

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 May 19, 2015

MOTION by Mr. Stanley that the minutes from the May 19, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission be accepted as submitted. **SECONDED** by Mr. O’Connell.

The motion passed unanimously by all present.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications directly to the Economic Development Commission.

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 a future meeting.

B) Speakers for Future Meetings

Commissioners suggested inviting Conntech, UTC Aerospace, HD Segur Insurance and a local grower to future meetings of the Economic Development Commission.

C) Program with Connecticut Department of Labor

Mr. Sitko stated that the Connecticut Department of Labor is taking part in a program to familiarize Cheshire companies on the variety of services and programs provided by the Department of Labor during a breakfast on June 30th at Paul's Restaurant. Mr. Sitko stated that he is partnering with the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce for this program. So far there has been a good response to the program; most Commissioners stated that they would be available to attend as well.

D) Summer Meeting Schedule

Commissioners agreed that depending on time limitations for items to be brought before the Economic Development Commission over the next few months, there was a strong possibility that the August and possibly July Regular Meetings would be cancelled due to possible lack of quorum.

E) Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Sitko stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on July 27th for the public to comment on the updated Plan of Conservation and Development. He noted that this would be an opportunity for the Economic Development Commission to comment on the Plan. Chairman Pelletier asked if the Commission could see a draft of the Plan of Conservation and Development so that they

can discuss comments at their July meeting. Mr. Sitko stated that he would see about getting a copy out to the members.

F) Recognizing Long Standing Cheshire Businesses

It was discussed last month that the Economic Development Commission would like to work with the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce to recognize Cheshire businesses at their significant anniversaries throughout the year with some type of advertisement in the Cheshire Herald. Mr. Gromko noted that he spoke to Chamber Director, Dill, who was interested in the program and has a list that the group can use to recognize the anniversaries. It was suggested that maybe the advertisement could group a few businesses together depending on the timing. Mr. Gromko and Mr. Sitko will work with Mr. Dill on this project.

G) 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 will have 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. The Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for July 13th.

H) Coordinator's Report

Mr. Sitko reported that Ball & Socket Arts has set up a Pop Up Art Gallery at the former Strollo's location near Pop's Pizza on West Main Street from now through October. Ball & Socket Arts is working with the Town on a \$400,000 remediation Grant for their West Main Street property.

Mr. Sitko and Mr. Milone will be making a visit to UTC Aerospace (formerly Goodrich Corporation) next week. Mr. Sitko and Chairman Pelletier will be taking a tour today at 2pm of the 40,000 square foot addition that was recently completed at Housing Authority Insurance on Commerce Court.

Advanced Auto Zone may be leasing 10,000 square feet in part of the former Staples location in Cheshire Shopping Center on South Main Street.

Mr. Sitko stated that 2 properties on Fieldstone Court are under contract for smaller office buildings. The Rapaport property on Highland Avenue, just past the former Jordan Caterers building, is actively being looked at for development.

The C-PACE continues to peak interest by local businesses. The Connecticut Department of Transportation recently announced that they would like to see CTfastrak

extended north to Manchester and East Hartford. Mr. Sitko did not have an update on the current rider numbers for the bus lines.

Mr. Sitko stated that he has spoken to the property owner of 7-Eleven on South Main Street about the property condition and has seen some updates done recently. He has also been talking to the "Wesson" property owner (former Cheshire Cinema site) about making some beautification improvements to that highly visible property near the center of Town.

Over the summer, Mr. Sitko, Chairman Pelletier and Mr. O'Connell plan to continue to work with the Education Department so that a program will be in place for the Fall hopefully at both the Middle School and High School.

l) Other

Mr. Sitko stated that he recently met with Mr. O'Connell and Chairman Pelletier to start talking about the Economic planning perspective for the future of Cheshire. Part of this discussion going forward will include an assessment of the Economic viability of Cheshire, where and what direction this Commission would like to see Cheshire go in and businesses to attract in the long term. Commissioners agreed this is great idea and a discussion that will be very important for the future of Cheshire. Mr. Gromko asked Mr. Sitko to bring a zoning map of Cheshire to the next meeting to get a better understanding where business can be in town and the types of businesses in certain sections. Mr. Sitko stated that this was a good idea and would bring the map to the July meeting for the discussion about the Plan of Conservation and Development too. Commissioners also suggested that Town Planner Voelker be invited to the July meeting to be part of this discussion on the opportunities for Economic Growth in Cheshire.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pelletier adjourned the June 16th meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 8:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary