

Town of East Haven, CT  
 Economic Development Commission

*Tina Hedley*  
 TOWN CLERK

Special Meeting  
 Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT  
 July 14, 2022  
 Meeting 7:00 PM

**Present:** Vice Chairman Joe Bittner, Commissioner John Tarducci, Commissioner Lorrie Maiorano, Commissioner Steve DeLucia

**Absent:** Commissioner Mohan Chugani,

**Also Present:** Jamie Cuticello, Director of Economic Development, by phone

1. Call meeting to order – roll call

*Called meeting to order at 7:09pm*

Clerk, Tina Hedley took roll call, quorum is met.

2. Pledge of allegiance

3. Approval of past minutes (June 9, 2022)

Commissioner Lorrie Maiorano made a motion to accept last month's minutes FROM June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Commissioner John Tarducci 2<sup>nd</sup>, All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

4. Correspondence

Vice chair Bittner asked the Clerk (Tina Hedley) if the commission had any correspondence for this meeting.

*Tina Hedley read a message that was received by Regina at Town Hall.*

Ms. Renee Griffin.

Trachouse Beauty Salon

39 Frontage Road, Home Depot Plaza

Ms. Griffin is having a grand opening on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and would like to organize a grand opening.

Grand Openings are on the agenda and will be discussed in more detail.

5. Reorganization of Commission

Vice Chair Bittner stated that we no longer have a chairman for the Economic Development Commission and that Bob Schumitz resigned, Vice chair Bittner asked

what the process is. Jamie then led a discussion regarding the process with the commission. Vice chair Bittner expressed his interest to remain as vice chair of the economic development commission. When commissioners were asked if any interest from the commission, Commissioner Maiorano expressed interest for chair. Point of order, The clerk, Tina Hedley stated she needs a motion, for vote, table, etc. Commissioner Steve DeLucia made a motion that the commission moves forward with the vote on reorganizing the economic development commission. Vice Chairman Bittner 2<sup>nd</sup> All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia made a motion to nominate Joe Bittner as Vice Chair, Commissioner Lorrie Maiorano 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

Commissioner Steve Delucia made a motion to nominate Commissioner Lorrie Maiorano as Chairwoman, Commissioner John Tarducci 2<sup>nd</sup> All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

Now Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano mentioned the clerk opening for this board. Jamie mentioned a possible ad for it.

Vice chair Bittner mentioned posting the clerk position available at Town Hall and the Library. Chair Maiorano asked about social media, if we would get too many inquires, that would lead elsewhere. It was decided to start with a posting in town hall and possibly the library. The discussion was had about the clerk. The board decided no changes will be made at this time with keeping the clerk position open.

## 6. Ribbon Cutting/Grand Openings

Tina Hedley read/referenced the letter that Steve Delucia and the Chamber of Commerce sent by email to Town Hall, Jamie Cuticello, regarding future grand openings in the community. A letter was put together as a collab effort from Economic Development and the Chamber of Commerce to greet and support new businesses and welcome them to the Town of East Haven. The purpose of this letter would be to welcome them and have a joint Grand Opening if the business wishes to do so. Jamie stated that it's a great idea, he brought this to the Mayor's attention and he also supports this.

Jamie mentioned Steve Delucia sent him an email about this collab and we have a great group to do this together.

Commissioner Steve Delucia said we should email the letter to new businesses if possible and mail the letter as well to make sure they receive it and that he thinks USPS is more formal.

Jamie agreed and referenced letters and correspondence that went out from his office in the past to businesses that have stopped by recently at town hall. Jamie stated, I'm excited the group

feels this way and he's excited about this group effort with Chamber, Town and the Commission. The Commission was in agreement as well.

The conversation went back to the new salon requesting a grand opening earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Lorrie Maiorano stated that Sundays aren't usually an issue for her but she does have a prior engagement on this date that may prevent her from attending. Jamie mentioned that Sundays are traditionally a family day and he understands if the commission would like to keep these grand openings on a weekday if possible.

It was determined after discussions that Tina Hedley will reach out to the new business owner, discuss the date of the said grand opening, and relay this info back to Jamie and be in touch with the commission with the details.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia mentioned that Transylvania is opening on Sept. 1, 2022, we can get the letter to them in time for their grand opening.

Vice chair Bittner asked if we can have a legal review on any correspondence that goes out from Economic Development Commission. The board & Jamie agreed.

7. Public Comment

n/a

8. Other Business to come before the committee

Vice chair Joe Bittner asked about the hotel on Frontage Road. That this group had discussions on it a few years ago when it came up. Chair Lorrie Maiorano said there has been talk about the hotel within town in conversations. Jamie Cuticello mentioned that it's still in the works. The gentleman that owns the hotel, Jamie said, I can't think off the top of my head at the moment, he apologizes as he is not in a position to look it up either, however Joe Budrow from Zoning has been working on this with the owner.

Chair Lorrie Maiorano asked if Commissioner Tarducci had any updates for the commission on the Frontage Road Car Wash and/or Taco Bell

Commissioner John Tarducci stated Tacobell applied for a state permit, since being located on the highways on/off ramps, it was predicted to be ready for the fall.

The traffic flow is tight over there, Commissioner Steve DeLucia referred to the drive through at Dunkin.

Commissioner John Tarducci stated the Carwash is still moving along.

Chair Lorrie Maiorano asked about the restaurant, 95 Grill. Commissioner Steve DeLucia said he heard it fell through; Jamie confirmed. Jamie said he spoke with the owner a few times recently. We had interest in cannabis, there was a request for a Tesla charging station. Which led Jamie to talk about what comes across his desk, that he gets very specific commercial projects. For example, requests; I need bay doors, climate control, large SQ projects.

Jamie also mentioned that he had Aqua culture conversations recently, and there is interest in East Haven. Instead of using land maybe we can use the ocean and care for the environment at the same time. The commission discussed that caring for the environment would be great.

Vice chair Bittner asked about availability in Industrial Park, Jamie said I will spend some time looking into the industrial park. Availability in the industrial park was discussed. Jamie also mentioned, I truly believe we need to support the graduating students, we can afford to be a little picky on who we bring in for businesses that will support graduating students. We as a group need to secure jobs for our graduating youth. Jamie informed the commission that he spoke with the Winn group, I'd love to do veteran housing, Winn would jump at the opportunity, it was just a conversation. It's important that we think about the community and what we want to do benefiting the community.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia asked about the property on Dodge Ave (Longs) and Commissioner John Tarducci said it was privately owned already and approved for duplex/houses.

Vice chair Bittner asked if available properties are still listed online. Jamie stated available for sale property is on the Town Website via a link. We also added links for small business loans, education, news and other topics received to bring in people and support them.

Jamie mentioned that our site is also available in Spanish and mentioned that a very nice woman selling insurance was leased what she thought was retail space, it was more like a corner closet in a building. During an inspection it was seen and acted on as it was not proper rentable space. Jamie worked with this woman, and found her current office space at less of a cost. This was at no fault of her own. But it worked out in her favor as he found her better space and at a better cost.

Jamie discussed the town website and what kind of information has been being shared on the website and the Town's Facebook page. Jamie referenced the changes Tina has made to the Economic Development Department page, where he sends current information to add on the towns site or social media. On the website, Tina mentioned postings are dated in the back end. If what's being offered through the state for example has an expiration date, this website post will expire and come down at that time as well.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia asked if we have an official Economic Development Facebook page. Jamie Cuticello stated not now, there is a need one. Commissioner DeLucia asked Tina if she could develop this for us, Tina said yes.

Jamie closed with; my office is always open. It's not a one man show, I want to hear all the opinions, do not hesitate to come to my office and talk.

Vice chair Bittner brought forward a discussion about the next meeting date. Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup> is the original date. Going forward, we can keep the second Wednesday of the month now that the scheduling conflict has passed. This will be discussed further.

Clerk, Tina Hedley stated she will call the senior center to check dates and senior center availability and email the commission with the information.

August 10 and September 14<sup>th</sup> were discussed, the Fall Festival and with other community events taking place, these dates were selected, depending on the senior center's availability.

#### 9. Adjournment

Commissioner Delucia makes a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Tarducci 2<sup>nd</sup> All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

*7:54 meeting adjourns*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tina Hedley*

Temporary Clerk