

Town of East Haven, CT
Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2021
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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Haddon
Commissioner Shumitz
Commissioner Tarducci

STAFF PRESENT:

Ray Baldwin, Director
Dale Kroop, Grant Writer
Jonathan Bodwell, Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Bittner

PUBLIC PRESENT:

State Rep. Joe Zullo
Councilperson Sam Parlato
Niki Whitehead
Lorena Venegas
Karen Martin

Director Baldwin called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Members in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and held a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Commissioner Tarducci and seconded by Commissioner Shumitz, to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

REVIEW OF VISOIN AND MISSION STATEMENT

The commissioners went over the draft of the mission statement and charge that has been sent to each commissioner and discussed at the last meeting. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Haddon and seconded by Commissioner Tarducci seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

DISCUSSION of DISTRESSED TOWN/CITIES STATUS BY REP. JOE ZULLO

State Rep. Joe Zullo spoke to commission regarding the distressed towns/cities list that the State DECD posts on their website. It's an evaluation of the cities and towns in the state with each one having to meet a certain criteria in order to be considered distressed. The information will be sent to the clerk and she will attach that to these minutes.

REPORT ON PHASE 4 & 5 of MAIN STREET RENOVATION

Town Engineer Jonathan Bodwell spoke to the commission regarding the status of Phases 4 & 5 for Main Street Renovation. He explained that Phase 5 will go all the way to the New Haven town line. The designs have been sent to SCROG over a month ago. Phase 4 was sent back to engineering and should be approved shortly and then it will go out to bid and get that wrapped up and he's hoping to have that finished by the fall but can't promise. Commissioner Shumitz asked what the plans entail, to which Mr. Bodwell said it's renovations of the sidewalks and lighting on the street, basically a continuation of Phases 1, 2 and 3 down Main Street.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT/SMALL CITIES

Director Baldwin stated that he was excited to report that he was able to get a company to relocate from New Haven to East Haven at 110 Commerce Street. They will be making two and a half to three and a half million-dollar improvements, will hire 40/50 new employees and will bring in close to 15 million dollars a year in revenue. He will make a formal announcement when things are finalized. Director Baldwin said that the Town had placed a tax abatement/incentive plan and revise it to help attract more businesses to town and to the ones that already exist, to help increase operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lorena Venegas-(73 George Street) asked about inventory lists for open properties and if they were open to residents, as well as her wanting to see more minority or women members as there are a high number of minority businesses in town. She also asked about sidewalks being fixed for businesses as some are having to pay out of pocket and they need to be up to par.

Councilperson Samantha Parlato (470 Thompson Avenue) said she was speaking as the Chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce and she wanted to thank all for the work as the commissioners attempt to get businesses into Town and she is available to help.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no further business to come before the commission, **MOTION** made by Commissioner Tarducci and seconded by Commissioner Haddon to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna

Clerk