

Town of East Haven, CT
Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2021
Page 1

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Shumitz
Vice-Chair Bittner
Commissioner Tarducci

STAFF PRESENT:

Ray Baldwin, Director
Dale Kroop, Grant Writer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Chugani

PUBLIC PRESENT:

EHCC Chairwoman Parlato
Niki Whitehead
Lorena Venegas
Stacy Gravino

Chairmen Shumitz called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Commissioner Tarducci and seconded by Commissioner Bittner, to approve the minutes from the April 26th and May 10th meetings. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained.

MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATION BY EAST HAVEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chairwoman Samantha Parlato gave a presentation from the Chamber of Commerce about what the Chamber does and when they hold their meetings and how they help the Town. The presentation is attached for all to read.

DISCUSSION OF ENTERPRISE ZONES-PROCESS & BENEFITS (Dale Kroop)

Dale Kroop discussed the enterprise zones along with the process and benefits with the commission along with related programs for tax incentives and benefits. The enterprise zones were created in CT back in the 1970's. Back in 1989 when a tornado came through Hamden, there was quite a bit of damage to their industrial park. The town qualified and applied for assistance but the whole town couldn't get it. The assistance is based off of certain criteria, such as a high poverty rate, being a distressed community and others as well. He stated it could be a great tool if the area meets the requirement and create an enterprise zone.

DISCUSSION OF SWOT ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION

Director Ray Baldwin spoke to the commission regarding the SWOT analysis as well as a strategic plan for the commission. He is going to rely on departments for an assessment and what clear goals we can achieve and where the help is needed most. A draft of the analysis is attached for all to read.

Town of East Haven, CT
Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2021
Page 2,

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lorena Venegas stated she had several points to talk about and all topics were discussed this evening. She spoke about the May 10th meeting, where the commission lost a member, and there were no meeting materials and no one from the public could attend. She stated that it is especially important to have transparency and would like to see a woman or minority added to the commission. She also discussed the West End of Main Street and the communication with businesses with regard to parking issues, empty storefronts and also Tweed was discussed, and she suggested that a committee be formed so if the public has questions, they can answer them.

There being no further business to come before the commission, a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 was made by Vice-Chair Bittner and seconded by Commissioner Tarducci. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna

Clerk