

Town of East Haven, CT  
Economic Development Commission Zoom Special Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2022  
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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Shumitz  
Vice-Chair Bittner  
Commissioner Maiorano  
Commissioner Tarducci

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commissioner Chugani

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ray Baldwin, Director

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

Councilwoman Parlato  
Councilwoman Torello  
Garrett Sheehan GNHCC

Chairman Shumitz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Members in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Tarducci made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Vice-President Bittner seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**SELECTION OF MEETING DATES FOR 2022**

The meeting schedule was discussed for the upcoming year. The meetings will be moved back to Town Hall or on Zoom depending on the COVID situation. The meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The dates are as follows: February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14. **MOTION** made by Chairman Shumitz and Commissioner Maiorano seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ABOUT EDC BREAKFAST 4/28/2022**

Director Baldwin stated that he had attended numerous events like this while he was in Trumbull. He explained how it brings businesses and the Town together. He met with Commissioners Maiorano and Tarducci and Commissioner Maiorano was able to secure Mediterranean Bistro for the breakfast on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be from 7:30-8:00 and will be by invitation only. There will be some speakers that will make presentations to all in attendance, including Vin DiNuzzo, Principal of East Haven High School, Garrett Sheehan from the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and the main speaker Sean Scanlon. The event will have a hard stop around 9:30 am. This is a great idea and there is no cost to the business owners. Commissioner Maiorano also spoke to State Representative Joe Zullo, and he would like to speak if he is not in session that day.

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The owner of Mediterranean will have tables set up for 100-120 people and will feature breakfast items for those in attendance. There will be no alcohol included. He also stated that we could come in the night before and set up. The cost will be \$35 per person, which will be paid by Director Baldwin's budget.

**MOTION** made to approve the cost of the breakfast was made by Commissioner Tarducci and seconded by Chairman Shumitz. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION ABOUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKETING PLAN & PROMOTIONAL VIDEO**

Director Baldwin discussed the plan that was talked about a year ago or so along with a marketing plan for the Town. He was looking into getting a professional presentation done, and EHHS Principal Vin DiNuzzo stated that he would have the marketing and business department at the High School, who are more than enthusiastic to prepare and roll out a plan during the second half of the school year, where FBLA and advanced students only would prepare this, and it would be part of their curriculum.

**BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION PRESENTATION BY GARRET SHEEHAN OF THE GNHCC**

Garret Sheehan of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce spoke to the commission about business retention in the Town and how it works for other towns in the GNHCC. He thanked Director Baldwin for having him here at the meeting, and that he was looking forward to helping the Town partner up with the companies here and try to have some new companies move in because of the moving ahead plan and to see how it benefits the company and the Town to work together. Chairman Shumitz asked Mr. Sheehan why he supported the Tweed Airport. Mr. Sheehan stated that it was a good idea that would help make doing business easier with the hub at Tweed. He talked about them hoping to have a flight to DC/Chicago hubs to other sites to help across the region. He asked if there were any complaints about the traffic and Chairman Shumitz spoke of his experience with Avelo and stated that he was incredibly pleased. Mr. Sheehan talked about how the DEP is doing a study for approval of the runway expansion but thought that would be at least a year or more out.

**2021 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Director Baldwin stated that he wanted to wait until the next meeting to discuss this as the presentation ran a little longer than he expected.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

There being no further business to come before the commission, **MOTION** made by Commissioner Bittner and seconded by Commissioner Tarducci to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda S. LaLuna*

Clerk