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Town of East Haven
Economic Development
Special Meeting January 12, 2023
Meeting Minutes

1. Call meeting to order/roll call.

Called meeting to order at 7:04pm by Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano and roll call taken by EDC clerk.

Present: Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano, Commissioner John Tarducci, Commissioner Steve DeLucia, Commissioner Mohan Chugani, Commissioner Michelle Antisdell.

Also present: Michelle Benivegna, Town of East Haven-Economic Development Director.

Tina Hedley, Clerk

Introductions were made as we are having our first meeting of the year at ETV at 230 main Street, East Haven, CT 06512 to be broadcasted on ETV's Facebook page. The video from this meeting can be found on ETV's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/therealetv/

2. Pledge of allegiance

3. Approval of past meeting minutes (September 28th)

No discussion.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 28, 2022, 2nd by Commissioner John Tarducci, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

4. Meeting Dates 2023

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano presented a list of dates that was distributed to the committee. The proposed meeting dates will continue with the second Thursday of each month, location ETV, 230 Main Street.

Commissioner John Tarducci made a motion to accept meeting dates as presented to the commission, 2nd by Commissioner Steve DeLucia, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries. *Meeting dates attached.*

5. Report from Economic Director

An event was held on December 15th 2022 at East Haven High School by the Town, Mayor's Office, Economic Development Commission, Board of Education, Chamber of Commerce. The event was called,

“Let’s Connect” for local business and high school students that are currently participating in East Haven High School’s available Tech programs. A great write up can be found in the New Haven Register.

Ann Benowitz, Vice President of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce was present. This wonderful event really showcased what is available at our high school. Students are ready to connect with businesses and we are hoping to help with the labor shortages all businesses face. Surveys will be reviewed that businesses participated in. We hope to connect students with businesses; with internships, summer help, prior to going to college, or those straight to the workforce.

New business to East Haven. Onyx, a medical spa, the ribbon cutting is tomorrow (1/13/23) across from stop and shop at 71 Hemmingway Avenue, all are encouraged to attend.

Planning a spring job fair event with our schools that will be focused on businesses and the talent coming out of our high school. This is looking like possibly mid-march and hoping to line up employment opportunities.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia made a motion to accept the directors report, 2nd by Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, all in favor, motion carries.

6. Economic Development Facebook page

Economic Director Michelle Benivegna states that the Facebook Page is created and in final stages of going live, being reviewed. Working with IT Dept, Tina Hedley has been working on this. We are working on building content, to share the latest happenings, business information, events, real-estate, employment opportunities, we will have a press release when we do go live. We have lots of ideas and always open to suggestions by all.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia, asked if it will be linked to the town's pages.

Michelle, stated, yes, it will be linked to all town Facebook pages its purely for common goal of supporting the town's businesses. We can let the board of education know to share info with us as well if they have a similar event like we had.

We want Facebook to be our central location for all things. We want to do all we can to connect our community with local businesses. We can have it shared on all town pages, the website, hopefully chamber can share it as well and build followers.

7. Old business

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano opened for discussion on old business, stating one was the Facebook page that will be live soon. Commissioner John Tarducci mentioned the video that was discussed in the past and would like to discuss marketing material again as well.

Commissioner Mohan discussed up EV locations stating that we should look into this for residents with electric vehicles, can the town benefit.

Director Michelle Benivegna shared details about her recent meeting regarding this topic with a company regarding more EV locations and mentioned there are costs associated with each station. The cost per station was discussed and the cost for per station maintenance programs that are necessary as

well. Due to the costs that were brought to our attention we need to investigate all of this a little more. We understand how important it is and beneficial, so it will be revisited as its quite an expense.

Michelle also mentioned a grant opportunity available, that the town covers the cost for one and the grant covers the cost for the second one at about 30-40K per device. There are lots of factors being explored and we are steps closer though. You get a better deal with the larger number of stations you have.

Commissioner John stated he will look into a company that asked about possibly putting them on frontage road in a shopping center, he doesn't recall of who sent this information but will look into it and report back.

Commissioner Mohan shared ideas of financing for EV stations, Town sharing costs with sponsors. Michelle Benivegna likes the ideas, and mentioned that she plans on meeting with large shopping centers with possible incentives of them hosting one.

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano called for any other old business. None at this time.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner John Tarducci at 7:20pm, Commissioner Steve DeLucia second, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Hedley,

Clerk