

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of October 28, 2020

A virtual/telephonic meeting was held via Zoom as the result of publicly declared CoVID-19 state emergency necessitating remote meetings

Commissioners Present: Michael Crowley, Chairman; Ani Chaghatzbanian, Vice Chair; Michael Lynch; Peter Cozzolino

Advisors and Aldermen Liaisons present: Julie Nash; Gregory Harla

Also present: Cassandra Schull

Absent: John DePalma; Jessica Stram; Albert Franke; Paige Miglio; Pamela Staneski

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 MEETING

Mr. Crowley and Ms Chaghatzbanian made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of September 30, 2020. Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS – None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

V. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION

There was no update on the EDC project list. Chairman Crowley noted the CT Post Mall proposal was denied. He asked about the manufacturing group and is interested in feedback from local businesses with Phase 3 opening and how EDC can get involved or assist.

VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Director Nash reported on unemployment, new business data and the increase in home ownership rates in the U.S. with Milford leading New Haven county due to millennials purchasing homes. She talked about the CTPTAC manufacturing webinar and noted that John Schuld is still working on creating a regional manufacturing group. She discussed new opening guidance and dining ideas for restaurants including an initiative by CT Chambers of Commerce to “BYOBlanket” to restaurants; she also is working on a holiday gift guide to support local shops. She announced Milford Chamber is moving into CT Post Mall and the Broad Street building will need to be repurposed; the possibility of pop-up retail shops was discussed. She commented on the CT Post Mall proposal and is working with interested parties on how to move forward. She asked everyone to share her newsletter to get the word out on several programs including CARES Act funding for small businesses; this Commission will review applications at the next meeting. Discussion on pop-up shops, holiday gift guide, long-term planning for the Chamber building and creating subcommittees for same.

VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. TOURISM – None

B. CHAMBER – None

C. MILFORD ADVISORY GROUP

Director Nash said the real estate industry has not had any issues, so Mr. Franke disbanded the subgroup. Dr. Kramer reported on more patients coming into office while still offering telehealth services. Financial industry did not have much to report other than the coin shortage is over, and she remains in active discussions with manufacturing sector and restaurants.

D. PERMIT & LAND USE – None

E. VISITATION REPORTS – None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

November meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday, November 18th
There will be no regular meeting in December

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49pm. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder