

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Meeting of November 20, 2013

Present: Commissioners: Robert Kapusta, Chairman, John O'Neil, Vice Chair, Suzanne Cahill, John DePalma, and Michael Lynch

Advisor: Julie Nash

Absent: Kathy Alagno, Greg Harla, Victor Ferrante

Guest: Dan Worroll

I. Call to Order - Mr. Kapusta called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. Minutes – A motion was made by John O'Neil and seconded by Michael Lynch to approve the minutes of October 23, 2013, as presented.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Chairman's Report – As is the routine and the general rule, Chair Kapusta usually meets with the Mayor, but the Mayor cancelled due to the Inauguration that was taking place. There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 22, 2014. A motion was made by John O'Neil and seconded by Michael Lynch.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Correspondence – None

VI. Economic Development Activity – Julie Nash stated that Digital Back Office, which is a business in Milford, recently was offered the contract to work with the Connecticut Conference and Municipalities to develop the Nutmeg Network initiative, which is comprised of currently the 911 services across the State. Julie reached out to Dale Bruckhart and congratulated him in acquiring this award and Julie and Dale will be meeting the first week of December. The Greek Spot restaurant opened and their official ribbon cutting is on November 14. The many events coming up are the Lamplight Stroll on December 6 & 7, the tree lighting the day after Thanksgiving and then the small business Saturday on November 30. The 375th committee has developed multiple events throughout the year for this upcoming celebration.

- VII. Guest Speaker – Chair Kapusta introduced Dan Worroll as a member of the Golf Commission. He stated that Mr. Worroll graduated from Southern Connecticut University. He is recently retired from the Milford Fire Department after almost 35 years of service and he was the emergency operations center coordinator. Mr. Worroll has an extensive golf background. He played varsity golf for SCSU for four years and he caddied for the LPGA tour for three years. He is currently commissioner of the gold commission and he also is financial advisor for the City of Milford. He is Chairman of Milford Parks, Beach and Recreation commission and is part of the Walnut Beach commission as well.

Mr. Worroll stated that the Golf Course was started in 1997 and it was a combination between the City of Milford and the Iroquois Pipeline. The Iroquois Pipeline gave between \$350,000 and \$400,000 to help with the golf course. Most of the work was done by Public Works and the golf course was designed by John Casey who worked for the City of Milford. It is an enterprise fund, which means they are self-contained. They needed to decide whether to operate the course themselves or have a management company come in. They decided to have a management company run the golf course and Tournament Turf runs the course and they also own Orange Hills golf course. The contract is usually for three years and they pay the commission \$72,000 a year to rent the course. The management company is responsible for the electrical and simple maintenance. The commission is responsible for water and for major maintenance. Since they own Orange Hills they take care of most of the maintenance themselves. Tournament Turf owns all of the equipment associated with the course. The golf commission is working on acquiring more storage space and another building for the carts. Mr. Worroll would like to round the amount of costs. There are tournaments and outings that are scheduled at the course. The Recreation Department sells gift certificates and they run a golf camp during the summer months. A discussion continued regarding fees and expenses for the golf course and the carts.

VIII. Standing Items/Committee Reports

- A. Downtown Parking & Liaison to P&Z Board – Mr. O’Neil spoke with the Deputy Chief Butler who supervises the traffic and parking at the Milford Police Department. John asked Chief Butler about the one-way issue at High Street between North and South Broad Street to make that section into a two-way. He said that this issue had been discussed quite heatedly in great length and said it was such a short block and traffic would be blocked. They would have to widen that portion of High Street and the Historical members would not approve this change, therefore, this change will not happen. Mr. O’Neil is looking into the after 6 p.m. parking issue.

There are real opportunities to help the downtown parking situation with signage.

- B. Chamber – No Report. Chair Kapusta referenced the signage issue. Julie Nash stated that the Mayor is extremely anxious to get this project done. There were 52 signs proposed and it was decided that this is just too many signs. The 52 signs have been knocked down to 11 signs. Half of the field surveys are done for these specific signs, which the City gave as an in-kind service. They have to figure out the other half of the surveys, which Codespoti will be handling. The next step is to get the design fabrication and installation numbers for the 11 signs and there is \$60,000 being put towards this project. The goal of this project is to have all of the signs in by the spring.
 - C. Milford Film Festival – Mr. O’Neil spoke with Jim Amann and he stated that he was going to start scheduling meetings for the Film Festival and John has not heard anything further.
 - D. 375th Anniversary of Milford – Mr. Kapusta stated that the discussion of this committee was discussed.
 - E. Permit & Land Use Process Report – No Report.
 - F. Visitation Report – Mr. DePalma is following up on the Tesla information given at the last EDC meeting. In California he stated that Tesla is outselling all of the luxury automobiles but they are selling it to people who have homes that are worth \$3M to \$10M. This will affect Milford because of the electrical posts that are being installed.
- IX. Old Business – None
- X. New Business – Julie Nash proposed to have Paige Miglio of the Milford Arts Council as a guest speaker for the EDC. Chair Kapusta would like to get the Mayor’s input on this suggestion.
- XI. FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY – Mr. DePalma commented that Milford is doing well. Mr. Kapusta was extremely happy to hear how well the golf course is doing and it speaks well for the management of the City.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m. A motion was made to end the meeting by John O’Neil and seconded by Suzanne Cahill.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E. Holden