

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY HALL
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James Prestiano
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Sandro Epifano
Vice Chairman
Tracy Edwards
Secretary
Gregg Seccombe
Treasurer

Claude L. Perry, Sr.
Executive Director

MINUTES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2010 ERLINGHAUSER ROOM 7:00 PM

The Economic Development Commission held a regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2010. The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call:

James Prestiano	present
Sandro Epifano	present
James Hooker	present
William Luneski	present
William Gallant	present
Greg Seccombe	absent
Tracy Edwards	absent
Terry Goldson	present
Ralphine Siggers Ford	present

7 present, 2 absent

A quorum was present.

also present:

John Marini, Alderman

Claude Perry, Executive Director, Economic Development

Mr. Epifano declared the meeting open at 7:10. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. A quorum was present.

Mr. Perry presented all of the correspondence to the members. The members discussed the various pieces of correspondence. Mr. Prestiano questioned the terms of office. He was told that the appointments first to fill terms that were expiring. Members that are new to the board all have terms that expire at the same time. He then welcomed new members, Mr. Terry Goldson and Ms. Ralphine Siggers-Ford.

Mr. Epifano made a motion to accept the correspondence as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Luneski. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Epifano stated that he felt that the minutes for the last needed to be corrected. He stated that as the last meeting had no quorum, there was no meeting. The minutes stated that since there was no quorum, he and Mr. Hooker "left". It should have just stated that the meeting ended. The secretary stated that Alderman Marini asked her to remain so that he could give the members that were still there some information and possibly discuss some information with them. The secretary was told that she should not have remained at the meeting nor continue taking notes. The secretary was further informed that in the future that no one can request anyone from the commission nor the secretary to remain at a meeting once it has been adjourned other than the chairman or vice-chairman of the commission She stated that she would do that in the future. Mr. Prestiano stated that he would like to make corrections to the prior meeting minutes. He further stated that he would e-mail the corrections to the secretary so that she could make them.

Mr. Luneski made a motion to correct the minutes as discussed by the board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Epifano. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Prestiano read thru the various items under old business. He discussed the sample business survey from the town of Cheshire. Ms. Siggers-Ford questioned if we could get a sample from a town that was closer to Ansonia in makeup, etc. She was told that this is just a guideline. Mr. Prestiano stated that he would like to get some members to create a committee to work on creating a business survey for Ansonia. Mr. Epifano, Mr. Prestiano and Ms. Siggers-Ford volunteered to be part of this committee. Mr. Prestiano suggested that the members should have this completed by the next meeting so that it could be acted on by the members at that time.

Mr. Prestiano then asked about the draft letter to the Ansonia Merchants. He informed the members that Ms. Edwards put together a rough draft of this document. It was suggested that all of the board members names and ways to communicate to the board members be added to this document. Mr. Epifano suggested that the meeting dates be listed as well. The members thought that was a great idea and will be added to the letter.

Ms. Siggers-Ford asked why there was a meeting when many of the members would not be able to make the meeting. She was told that the members voted at the last meeting to have a meeting in July and August. Unfortunately some of the members had unforeseen business that made them unable to attend the last meeting.

Mr. Prestiano requested that the board members adopt Roberts Rules of order for all of the proceedings of the meetings. Ms. Siggers-Ford made a motion to adopt Roberts Rules of order. The motion was seconded by Mr. Luneski. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Marini then was asked to address the board regarding possible business with the Connecticut Office of

Film, Television and Digital Media. Mr. Marini stated that a representative from this organization has expressed an interest in meeting with the city officials and taking a look at the facilities that may be available for their use. This would allow the organization to add Ansonia to a list of possible sites for the future. The date that they would like to meet would be at the boards next meeting, September 7th. Mr. Epifano asked if the Farrels building has be inspected and proven to be “clean”. He was told that it would not be just the Farrel building. Mr. Prestino suggested that members go on a fact finding mission to find out which buildings would be available, etc. This will be done prior to the September 7th meeting.

A discussion regarding bylaws for the committee was initiated by Mr. Prestiano. He explained that bylaws are an explanation of how the commission works. He then asked if there was any other commission had bylaws. He was told that in Ansonia, there are no other commission that has them. Mr. Perry suggested that he could contact Corporation Council and find out what he thinks regarding this issue. Mr. Epifano made a motion to have a communication go out to Corporation Council regarding this issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldson. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Prestiano then stated that Mr. Perry’s office compiled a list of businesses in Ansonia. He was told that none of the home-based businesses are on the list. At the time that this list was discussed, there was no desire to have them on this list. If the commission was interested in adding them to the list, the board would need to look at ways to gather this information.

Mr. Epifano asked who was in charge of maintaining the web site. He was told that he was going to find out that information. There is information that is incorrect on the site. He was told that it was Rich Bshara and Eileen Krugel that were in charge of this.

Mr. Epifano made a motion to utilize a TIF program for future businesses so that they could come to Ansonia. He then explained that a TIF program is a tax incentive facility. He would like this to work hand in hand with Mr. Perry. Ms. Siggers-Ford seconded the motion.

Mr. Marini stated that the board would have problems with this because the city would see a reduction in the tax base. This would throw the budget off. Mr. Epifano stated that there are many buildings that are totally vacant. The city is not getting anything from those buildings. He feels that to bring businesses into the city, you need to make it inviting to them. Mr. Prestiano stated that this is not at a point for the commission to be able to vote on as there is some research that has to be done before the board could vote on this. Mr. Goldson stated that we don’t need to vote on this because this is something that he could investigate and then implement in the future. The Board of Taxation and Board of Aldermen need to be involved as well. Mr. Prestiano stated that he feels that Mr. Epifano could investigate this and report on it at the next meeting.

Mr. Marini then stated that there is a member of the public in attendance and he wishes to speak. Mr. Prestiano asked the members if they would have any opposition in deviating from the agenda so that the member from the public could address the board. No one had any problems with this.

Mr, Patrick Henri, 16 Harris Road addressed the board. He stated that he saw that a Sonic has opened in Wallingford. They are looking for locations to open. He felt that Ansonia should contact them. He then stated that if they contacted the city if they decide to open here or not they could give us information as to what is good or what doesn't work with the city. He also stated that Planet Fitness is also looking to open franchises. He stated that we may be able to get important feedback about the city.

Mr. Prestiano stated that there are dollars available for infrastructure located near transportation specifically train stations. He feels that this is something that we should look into. Mr. Perry stated that he and the mayor are already aware of this and is looking on this already.

Mr. Marini stated that FF Productions has also opened up in Ansonia.

Mr. Epifano made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Luneski. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended at 8:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sardinha
Secretary