

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
CITY HALL  
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Patrick Henri  
*Chairman*  
Sandro Epifano  
*Vice Chairman*  
Tracy Edwards  
*Secretary*  
Gregg Seccombe  
*Treasurer*

Claude L. Perry, Sr.  
*Executive Director*

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011 ERLINGHAUSER ROOM 7:00 PM

Mr. Henri opened the regular meeting at 7:00.

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll call:

Patrick Henri	present
Sandro Epifano	present
James Hooker	present
William Luneski	present
Greg Seccombe	present
William Gallant	present
Tracy Edwards	absent
Terry Goldson	Late 7:15
Ralphine Siggars Ford	present

6 present, 1 absent

also present:

Claude Perry, Executive Director  
John Marnini, Alderman

A quorum was present.

The meeting opened with a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Henri then opened the meeting up for the public session. There was no one that wished to speak. He then closed the public session.

Mr. Henri entertained a motion to accept the prior month's minutes. Mr. Luneski made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seccombe. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Henri requested to hear the Executive Director's report. Mr. Perry stated that the members have a written copy of this report. Mr. Henri asked if he had any comments on the meeting that they had with Lisa Low. Mr. Perry stated that the meeting was for interested homeowners so that they could have some input in the process. He further stated that some of the contractors were also in attendance. He then stated that many of the homeowners had questions regarding the entire process.

He then said that the contractors were very interesting. Some of the contractors actually walked out of the meeting. They need to meet certain criteria. Many of the homes have lead issues.

There are 17 units that have clearance to move forward. They would like to see the projects move forward no later than April. There are more than that number that have submitted their application, but he does not want to have the construction manager do the inspections unless he knows that they will be doing them. The City would have to pay for the specs even if the home is not going to be done. They will do the first 10 and then they will move on from there.

Ms. Siggars Ford asked where the units are located. Mr. Perry stated that they are located all over the city. They are doing a city wide project. It's being done on a first come first serve basis. He then explained that the city can apply for more funding if they do a good job with this first allotment.

Alderman Marini asked if the contractors have a deadline for when they have to submit their applications. He was told that there were some criteria that they had to meet first before they could bid on the project. The contractors would need to start working in six weeks. Alderman Marini asked when the first project will begin. The projected date is April. Mr. Henri thanked Mr. Perry for his report. Mr. Goldson arrived at 7:15.

Mr. Henri then asked for subcommittee reports. He stated that he gave the members a copy of his report. He stated that he went to the Public Hearing for the Small Cities grant. He stated that there were a lot of people there. He stated that he was speaking with Rosemary Spatafore, from the Ansonia Business Council. She stated that when there are events going on in the city, the businesses are not aware of them happening. They would like to be notified in writing before such events are happening so they could promote them.

He then stated regarding the movie production, that he toured with the Mayor, Alderman Marini and movie directors the armory, the YMCA, and Warsaw Park. They stated that they will be using the armory as the sole location for the production. They requested information regarding stores and restaurants in the area. The City is requesting that they support the businesses in the city as much as

they can. They will do this. There will be about 20 people in the crew. They will be in town for about four days.

He visited Antonio's restaurant. He suggested that they invite students from the schools culinary department and give them a tour of the restaurant. Let the press know about this so that there could be a photo opportunity and promote the business.

Mr. Henri then stated that he requested that the Valley Independent and the Valley Gazette post resumes of the local citizens on their websites so that we could get more of our citizens employed. He was told that the Independent can't do this as it would be very difficult for them to take care of this. They suggested that if the city were to do something like this, they would be happy to post a link to it. He had not heard back from the Gazette.

Mr. Henri reported that he spoke to the people at Healey Ford. He stated that he heard that there were some interested parties in the property; unfortunately none of them are going forward at this time. The representative is more than happy to entertain any leads that the board may have for any business to go in the site.

Mr. Henri then moved onto old business. He stated that Mr. Luneski has put a lot of time and effort in designing the business survey. Mr. Luneski asked if the Mayor has approved the mailing. He was told that the Mayor has both items. Alderman Marini stated that the Mayor is in the process of reviewing it for any additions to the letter. He likes what has been done. Mr. Luneski made a motion to discuss the business survey and cover letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallant. All were in favor of the motion.

Alderman Marini stated that the Mayor and Tara Kolokowski were reviewing the documents. The biggest concern that they had was to keep it as simple as possible. They also feel that the businesses should be identified. They also wanted to make sure that the reason why the board is looking for the information is very clear. Mr. Luneski came up with a slogan "Ansonia Economic Development, we work for you." Alderman Marini further stated that we should supplement the survey with face to face communication with the business owners, possibly have a large business forum or form some small focus groups to get input from the businesses. Mr. Epifano asked if anyone has actually approached a business owner in general on what the complaints may be. He stated that as a result of the recent snow storm, the streets were not plowed so that a business on Main Street would be able to have easy access for their customers. Mr. Gallant stated that this will probably be mentioned in the survey. He added that the survey needs to go out as soon as possible. Mr. Epifano further stated that another concern is the lack of parking directly on Main Street. He suggested that the lines be painted on the street to indicate parking spaces. Mr. Henri stated that the survey would touch on these problems.

Mr. Henri asked if there should be an RSVP on the survey. It was suggested that there should be a return deadline. There will be about 600 businesses that will get the survey. The question was asked

how the mailing will be sent out. There is no budget for the postage. Mr. Perry explained that the city would cover the cost for the mailing. Mr. Goldson asked the members if they were familiar with “survey monkey”. He explained that survey monkey is a site that helps you create online surveys. He thought that it may be more economical to have the surveys done electronically. Mr. Luneski stated that he would not do a survey electronically due to privacy concerns. Mr. Gallant made a motion that the board research Survey monkey. There was no second for this motion. The board decided that they will not be sending the survey out electronically.

The board then discussed the grammatical changes that needed to be made to the cover letter. The board requested that the secretary read the letter to make sure that all of the changes were correct.

Mr. Gallant made a motion to approve the cover letter with the corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldson. All were in favor of the motion.

Ms. Siggars Ford made a motion to approve the survey with the corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallant. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Henri stated that the surveys will be mailed out. We will enclose self addressed return envelopes with the survey. The target date for it to be mailed out is January 15<sup>th</sup>. The return date will be February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Luneski made a motion to amend the return date to February 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Epifano seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

The chairman requested that the members go and visit the local businesses when they get a chance because it says in the letter that the members will be doing this.

Mr. Henri asked what Mr. Luneski had done regarding the City’s Web site. Mr. Luneski presented the board with a large scale version of the current “pages” of the site and then the corrections that he was proposing. All of the members liked the proposed changes.

Mr. Henri then went into new business. Mr. Perry stated that information is listed on the website regarding things that are happening such as the meeting with the contractors and the home owners. He further stated that if there a meeting is going to be cancelled due to a lack of a quorum, he needs to notify the secretary, and notices need to be posted on doors.

Ms. Siggars Ford expressed concern about getting the agenda from Alderman Marini. Mr. Henri stated that he had asked Mr. Marini to submit it for him. In the future, he will ask Vice-Chairman Epifano to submit it for him.

Mr. Henri requested that Alderman Marini discuss the upcoming movie that will be filmed at the Armory. He stated that it is a one person show. They are using the Armory exclusively. The title of the film is “Another American”. It is an adaptation of a play that has been around for more than a decade. He further

stated that the crew was given information about the cities restaurants and shops in the city. They were encouraged to spend their funds in the city and they were happy to accommodate that request. One of the crew members is from Ansonia. They are trying to get as much business into the city as well as getting more positive recognition for the city as well.

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

The meeting ended at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sardinha  
Secretary