

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
CITY HALL  
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Sandro "Vito" Epifano  
*Chairman*  
William Luneski  
*Vice Chairman*  
Ralphine Siggars Ford  
*Secretary*  
Gregg Seccombe  
*Treasurer*

Claude L. Perry, Sr.  
*Executive Director*

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2011 ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS 7:00 PM

The Economic Development Commission held its Regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2011.  
The meeting began at 7:10 P.M.

Roll call:

Sandro Epifano	absent
William Luneski	present
James Hooker	present
William Gallant	present
Greg Seccombe	absent
Ralphine Siggars Ford	absent
Terri Goldson	present
Vincent Scarlatta	present
Sal Hanaif	present

6 present, 3 absent

also present:

John Marini, Alderman  
Tara Kolakowski  
Carol Forcier

Mr. Luneski opened the meeting at 7:05. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mr. Luneski then requested that we remain standing to observe a moment of silence in respect for Mr. Perry who recently passed away.

Mr. Luneski entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Scarlatta made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallant. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Lueski then opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. William Kularski, 22 Williams Street, 40 Fourth Street was present. He asked the Board there was anything that they could do to improve the conditions of the roads in the city, especially Tremont Street. He feels that they are similar to ones you would find in a war torn area. He was told that this board has nothing to do with the roads. This is a meeting of Economic Development. It was suggested that he may want to talk with Ms. Kolakowski about this and she may be able to help him.

There was no one else that wished to speak during the Public Session. Mr. Luneski then closed the public session.

He then moved on to Old Business. Regarding the Business survey, he stated that the survey was published in May on the City web site. Apparently there have been major changes to that web site in the past month. At this time no one can access the survey. He is in the process of reviewing this and doing what needs to be done so that the survey is accessible again.

At the last meeting it was discussed that the board look into researching using high school students in reaching out to the community. Mr. Luneski stated that Mr. Scarlatta offered to contact the people at the high school about this.

Mr. Scarlatta stated that he spoke with people at the High School and Emmett O'Brien Schools. When he spoke with them to give them ideas of what the board has in mind to get them involved with the city. He literally went through the process of how they would be able to interact with the city at each level. The students could even do the fundraising for the materials for the project. If they were going to do a project for example of making park benches to be used along the river walk, one of the fundraising ideas was to dedicate a bench in a person's name. After a few years, they could renew the dedication. They could also do this with bricks.

Mr. Luneski requested that someone make a motion to create a 4 person exploratory subcommittee to research and look into this and work out the details. Mr. Scarlotta made a motion to create a 4-person exploratory subcommittee to research and look into this and work out the details. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hanaif. There was a brief discussion regarding this idea. Mr. Scarlotta stated that the board just wants to be in advisory position or they want to assist in the facilitation of the project.

All of the members were in favor of the motion. (The members of the subcommittee were named later in the meeting.)

Mr. Luneski then moved on to the attendance policy that he suggested at the last meeting. He said, " Last meeting I raised the issue of absenteeism on the board. I sincerely apologize if the suggestion of this policy has offended any of our commissioners. I have recently found out that there are commissioners with family matters that far outweigh the issues facing this commission. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and your focus should indeed, be with your families. I respectfully do ask, that you also consider the needs of your community. A commission that cannot meet due to an empty seat, is ineffective and lacks the ability

to help our citizens. We have all volunteered to serve our community. If I cannot continue to dedicate the time it takes, to productively participate in the duties for which I have been sworn to, I will be the first to step aside, and allow a new citizen to continue our progress. As Vice Chair, I respectfully ask you to do the same. With that being said, Vinnie Scarlatta has volunteered to research our proposed policy.”

Mr. Scarlatta stated that he found out that according to the City Charter, there is an attendance policy for Planning and Zoning. It only affects that board. Mr. Luneski asked if the members wanted to pursue an attendance policy for the commission. He requested a motion to continue researching putting together an attendance policy for the commission. Mr. Scarlotta made a motion to continue to research an attendance policy. There was no second for the motion. The motion did not continue and the subject will be dropped.

Mr. Luneski stated regarding interfacing with the Ansonia Business Council, he asked Alderman Marini if the Mayor would be willing to support this venture. Alderman Marini stated that the Mayor is excited about the prospect of this. We could have a meeting of the Council as early as the end of October. This would be an organizational meeting. This is something that originally came out of the Mayor’s office.

Mr. Gallant made a motion to have a meeting of the Business Council at the end of October to revitalize the Ansonia Business Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldson. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Luneski asked for volunteers for members to assist with this. Mr. Scarlotta, Mr. Gallant and Mr. Luneski all said that they would be willing to assist with getting the first meeting going.

Alderman Marini stated that the members should contact Rosemary Spatafore in helping with this project and that they should also invite Bill Pursell from the Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor.

Mr. Luneski then stated that since we approved the motion to have a four-member subcommittee for the project dealing with the schools, we need volunteers for this. Mr. Hanaif , Mr. Seccombe, Mr. Hooker and Mr. Scarlotta volunteered to be on this committee.

Mr. Luneski stated that there was a request to have the next meeting held at the armory. After a brief discussion it was decided that the board would not be able to have a meeting or a walkthrough due to liability constraints. The next meeting will be held here on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Luneski stated that the survey has already been released back in May of this year. The results were posted to the web site at that time. It may be better if the board were to create a new press release. Mr. Goldson made a motion that the Commission approve a letter with corrections made by the committee members to be released within the next two weeks. Mr. Galant seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Gallant stated that once the public session is closed, a member of the public should not be allowed to address the commission. He was very upset at the last meeting when a member of the public solicited

members of the commission prior to the meeting being adjourned. Mr. Goldson stated that unless a member of the public had direct knowledge or link to the board, they should not be allowed to speak after the public session is closed. It was also noted that the person in question is a member of another city board and was allowed a professional courtesy and allowed to address the board when the commission was not in public session due to his position. Mr. Luneski stated that solicitation such as that would not be tolerated during a meeting in the future. It is unacceptable.

Alderman Marini promised to bring this up. The owners of the Stars and Stripes shop approached him, they are looking for a new location for their business. They are having problems with the landlord. They are wondering if the commission would have any leads on a new location for them to move into. Mr. Goldson stated that they should be referred to the person that is taking over the position vacated by Mr. Perry. He was told that the Mayor's office is filling in for the Economic Director until a replacement is found.

Alderman Marini stated that State Statutes rule the Commission. He would like to see the Commission become more active in the interviewing process and eventual selection of the Director of Economic Development.

There was no other business to come before the board.

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

Then meeting ended at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sardinha  
Secretary