

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
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Vacant
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MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013 ERLINGHAUSER ROOM 7:00 PM

The Economic Development Commission held a Special meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2013. The meeting began at 7:05 P.M.

Roll call:

Vincent Scarlata	present
Greg Seccombe	Late 7:15
Bart Flaherty	present
Sal Hanaif	Late 7:05
Keith Murray	present
Terri Goldson	absent
Dave Cassetti	present
Horace Behrle	present
Jeff Sweeney	present

8 present, 1 absent

Mr. Scarlata opened the meeting at 7:05. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Scarlata then asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve last month's minutes. Mr. Flaherty stated that he had a correction to last month's minutes. He stated that on page 3, fourth paragraph it states that "Mr. Flaherty stated that the Director's function is to implement whatever plan the Commission comes up with." He believes he said Mr. Flaherty stated that the director's function is to implement the plan of Economic Development. Where there are initiatives, the commission should be prioritizing and supporting them." Mr. Flaherty made a motion to amend last month's minutes with the correction as stated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cassetti. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata then asked if anyone from the public wished to address the commission.

Mr. Pat Henri, 16 Harris Road, Ansonia stated that he wondered why the Economic Plan of development

hasn't been announced as of yet. He heard that it was completed in February and here it is almost July and it still hasn't been announced. There was a Special meeting of the Board of Aldermen tonight so that they could "hurry up and read the 53 pages before they hire someone" within the next two weeks. "Why didn't they get it back in February?"

He was told that the understanding that the board had was that everything was going to be rolled out together, the loan program, the new director and the plan of Economic Development.

Alderman Charlie Stowe, 23 Granite Terrace, stated that he felt that the report was too complicated to be presented in a public forum until the Board of Aldermen to know what was going on completely. He stated that he felt that the Board of Aldermen should be given the courtesy of being able to review the report before it went out to the public. He then stated that the Board of Aldermen should be able to really investigate the report and be able to ask any questions that they may have so that they will be able to answer any questions that the public may have regarding the report.

Alderman John Marini stated that the original intention was to roll out everything at the same time that the Executive Director was hired. Unfortunately the process became much longer than anticipated. Once they saw how "much depth" and complexity that was in the report, they felt that they should share it with the Board of Aldermen so they would be able to become familiar with it so they can make it work sooner rather than later.

Mr. Scarlata stated that they took the store front loan program out of the package so that they could have the season with the nice weather to do the work on the buildings and the facades.

Regarding the report, the Board of Aldermen accepted the report and copies should be available at the Town and City Clerk's Office. The report should be available to everyone at this point in time.

Mr. Behrle asked what is going on with the new director. He was told that the position should be offered to a candidate in the next two weeks.

Mayor DellaVolpe stated that he wanted to commend the board. As long as the city is moving forward in a positive direction, that's what's important.

Alderman Marini then stated that there was great cooperation from all sectors on this. There were changes that were made" all the way up until tonight" when it was presented to the Board of Aldermen. All of this, the loan program, the consultant plan, and the bike festival to name a few were made possible when they made a transfer from the salary of the former Economic Development director's line item. \$50,000 of that money is going to go back into the city in the form of the loan program. As a suggestion, it would be a fitting tribute if there was a way to have the loan program reflect where the money actually came from. He suggested that maybe we could call the loan the "Perry Loan" or "Perry Initiative" in honor of Claude Perry. The tax abatement program was also passed recently. This

empowers the city to be able to go out and proactively offer tax incentives or tax abatements based on the number of years that the business will be in town, based on the amount of money they will be investing, etc.

Mr. Scarlata then stated that he'd like to say that everything that he has been able to do, he wouldn't have been able to do if he didn't have the help and support of the Mayor. He has been 100% supportive of everything that the board has done. So, when he says that he's been behind the scenes with the support, he really has been.

Mr. Scarlata then asked if there was anyone else that wished to speak. There was no one else that wished to speak. Mr. Flaherty made a motion to close the public session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Behrle seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata stated that there were no communications for the board. Mr. Scarlata then moved on to bills. He stated that he received an invoice for \$931 from the police department for the officers that were on duty during the bike festival. He said that he has a discrepancy on the names. He has one officer listed twice. He stated that he signed off on two tickets, but he doesn't know if there was a third officer or what. He would like to have approval to pay this bill once it is straightened out. He then said that it will either be \$931 or \$320. Mr. Cassetti made a motion to pay the invoice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hanaif. All were in favor of the motion.

There was a question regarding an unpaid bill for DeCarlo and Doll. Mr. Scarlata stated that he brought the bill to the Mayor. He is not sure of what the balance of what the bill is at the moment. Mr. Murray stated that the issue was that the bill was not itemized. Mr. Scarlata stated that there wasn't anything to itemize. The bill was just for billable time. The bill was actually below the normal rate. We had 60 days to put together the entire package for the grant package. It wasn't originally coming through the commission, but it came through due to the extra funds in the budget. The Mayor stated that the funds have been encumbered so that the bill will be able to be paid. Mr. Behrle stated that there was a motion and a second at last month's meeting that we get an itemized bill, so he suggests that we get an itemized bill. Mr. Scarlata stated that he would get one from DeCarlo and Doll. The members requested that he clarify what the additional \$1,200 was for. Mr. Scarlata then asked if he could get approval to pay the bill once he has the itemized bill or would the members like him to wait until the next meeting to approve it again. The members indicated that they would like to review the itemized bill before it gets approved to be paid.

Mr. Scarlata then moved on to discussing the façade program. He stated that they have all the documentation for the plan itself. He then stated that the next step is to put together a small team to review the applications and get ready to implement the plan. There are two banks, Peoples Bank and Naugatuck Savings Bank that are going to help to supplement and join EDC in this initiative. Naugatuck Savings is putting together its own package of a total loan package tailored to assist with this. Peoples Bank is going to do something similar but they won't be having a separate vehicle. They will

probably take one of their loan programs and give it a separate name so that it could be identified. His hope is that our loans are only for \$2000. If an applicant needs to do something that is more expensive than that, the banks will already be in position to supplement and help them with the balance. The applicant will still have to go through the entire process of going for the banks' loan process so that they can get the loan. We are not going to be affiliated with the banks and their loans. The banks are just in place for the convenience of the applicants. We don't want to be responsible for someone getting a loan. We are doing the same thing with building materials and contractors. He then stated that this is just designed to make it easier for people to get this done. Alexander Hardware is going to discount building materials. We are trying to line up as many contractors as possible as recommendations. He then requested volunteers for the Steering Committee. Mr. Sercombe, Mr. Murray, Mr. Cassetti and Mr. Flaherty will make up the committee.

Mr. Flaherty then said that he wished to commend Mr. Scarlata on the work that he has done on this program. He stated that it's pretty cohesive trying to put the funding together with the banks. He also stated that it was great to get some of the local contractors and Alexander's Hardware involved.

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve the loan program. Mr. Behrle seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata then announced that there will be a Business Forum with representatives from the banks, contractors and Alexander's will be there as well. That way anyone that is interested in the program will be able to get their questions answered and at that point EDC will be able to take their applications for the program.

Mr. Scarlata stated that regarding the Web site that his focus is on the front page and getting more business in there. It is moving along.

Mr. Scarlata then indicated that the Greenway dedication took place. He informed the members that he is on the Steering Committee for the Greenway. He explained that the Greenway is essentially our Riverwalk, just expanded to the other towns. They were trying to have the new Secretary of the Interior attend the event, but it didn't work out that way. However, Mayor DellaVolpe, Derby Mayor Staffieri, Shelton Mayor Lauretti, Congresswoman DeLauro, State Representative Gentile all attended the dedication on the Derby side of the Riverwalk.

Mr. Scarlata then said that the Farmer's Market is coming up and will open up in a few weeks. He passed around a card that he created that vendors could hand out to their patrons that would entitle them to discounts for goods "up and down Main Street." The community gardeners may be a part of the Farmers Market this year. He attended the opening meeting of the year and pitched the market to them. They are trying to get 501 nonprofit status so they could do this as a collective. We may also get local honey this year as well. He then indicated that he needs to buy signs for the market this year. He only bought 25 last year, he lost some and he would like to buy an additional 25 for this year to supplement what he already

has. Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve the purchase of an additional 25 signs for the Farmers Market. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sweeny. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata then moved on to new business. He stated that they are in the third round of bidding for the ATP and Palmer buildings. There were no bids in the first two rounds. As soon as the bidding ended the second time around, Mr. Scarlata contacted the Mayor and said that he was going to contact Rob Scinto about the buildings. They are no interested in buying the buildings. However, when Mr. Scarlata told him about the school possibility, Mr. Scinto told him that if we could get a “commitment from a school, I’ll build it for you.” Mr. Scarlata then contacted the schools and he had the Dean of Community Outreach tour Main Street. They were very interested in the Senior Center. There’s a lot of work that still has to happen. They have to have a Market Analysis done to see what kind of a student population there possibly is in the Valley to justify a school. Mr. Scarlata is thinking of contacting the Valley Independent to see if they would do a poll online for us that would answer the questions that the schools would have regarding having a school on Main Street. He was also thinking of contacting Yale to see if someone would be able to do a Market Analysis for us. He has been waiting for the buildings to get sold.

Mr. Scarlata told the members that he was on a conference call with the Greenway representatives, the grant coordinator from Waterbury and they spoke about murals. He then contacted the grant writer once the call was completed and asked for more information regarding the murals. He was told that they did a mosaic mural. There is funding for the arts through the DECD. Once the mural is developed, they get input from various sources. They then contact the Hunters, who specialize in exterior murals. They put together a stack of drawings and get approval from the city. Then they take the mural and break it into smaller 3 x 5 boards. Then volunteers get together and create the boards. Then the boards were bolted into the side of the building. They received 50% funding from the state, 25% from “in kind”, and 25% from donations. They sold each panel for \$1200. It wasn’t a money maker, but they generated enough to break even. The next round of grants for the Arts maybe in August, so he will contact Eileen Krugel to write a grant for this. He believes that this would be a good idea for the side of the bubble building. (These are two articles regarding the Waterbury mural. <https://www.mattatuckmuseum.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=230> <http://www.waterburyct.org/controls/NewsFeed.aspx?FeedID=895>)

Mr. Scarlata stated that he didn’t have anything else to discuss with the members and entertained motions to adjourn. Mr. Flaherty made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Behrle. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sardinha
Secretary