

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CITY HALL
253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401
Telephone (203) 736-5930 FAX (203) 735-5422

Vinnie Scarlata
Chairman
Saleh "Sal" Hanaif
Vice Chairman
Keith Murray
Secretary
Gregg Seccombe
Treasurer

Peter Kelly
Executive Director

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013 ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS 7:00 PM

The Economic Development Commission held Special meeting on Monday, September 23, 2013. The meeting began at 7:15 P.M.

Roll call:

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

5 present, 4 absent

Also present:

Peter Kelly, Economic Development Director

Mr. Scarlata opened the meeting at 7:15. 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 all of the previous monthly minutes. Mr. Behrle made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seccombe. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata stated that there were no communications.

Mr. Scarlata then indicated that there were a few bills that needed to be addressed. He addressed the DeCarlo and Doll bill. He asked Mr. Murray if the bill could be paid at this point. Mr. Murray asked if

there was anything else outstanding from the bill. He was told that when Mr. Scarlata spoke to Mr. Burns, he was told that the bill was an agreement for under the figure not requiring that they go out to bid. There will be no further invoicing after this gets paid unless additional work needs to be done under this purchase order. Mr. Murray stated that if that is the case, he has no problem with the bill. Mr. Cassetti made a motion to pay the bill. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata then addressed the web site. He stated that there are two things up on the site. We are almost ready to launch the site. At this time we owe Northborough \$4,000. Mr. Scarlata stated that they are requesting half of the \$4,000 to be paid soon. We will pay the balance when the site is launched. A purchase order has been “put in the works” to secure the funds from last year. Mr. Cassetti made a motion to pay \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seccombe. Four members voted to approve paying this bill. Mr. Murray abstained from voting on this motion.

Mr. Scarlata then stated that the annual fee for the domain name and hosting the site is \$512 and is due at this time. It’s already in the budget and the bill needs to be paid by the 30th. Mr. Cassetti made a motion to pay this bill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murray. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata spoke about a bill from Arrow printing. He indicated that 25 signs for the Farmer’s Market and discount coupons were printed and the bill for that was a total of \$512. Mr. Behrle made a motion to pay the bill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seccombe. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Scarlata addressed the loan program. He was told that there are three merchants that are interested in applying for the loan, but they haven’t done so as of yet. He indicated that he hand delivered about 60 packets regarding the loan program to merchants on Main Street. There was a forum at Antonio’s that all of the merchants were invited to where they would have been able to discuss the loan program and anything else that they wanted to speak about. Mr. Luneski from L2 Innovate and Mrs. Radin from Lear’s Pharmacy were the only two merchants to attend the forum.

Mr. Scarlata then spoke about the Farmer’s Market. He said that for us to be a Connecticut certified Farmer’s Market it needs to be Connecticut grown produce only. We are not to have any produce from out of state to be sold at the market. Marcheski’s and Marcucio’s are the only two farmers that they have had at the market consistently. Mr. Scarlata is thinking of asking another entity to run the Farmer’s Market in the future.

Mr. Scarlata updated the board regarding Housatonic Community College. The last time that he spoke to the people in charge, they were going to do a market analysis to see if there may be an interest in continuing education in downtown. He hasn’t heard anything about this being done at this point. The college has spoken to the Board of Regents and the Valley Chamber about this. They toured the ATP and Palmer buildings as well as the Farrel buildings.

Chairman Scarlata informed the board that there were no bids for the ATP and Palmer buildings. This is the third time that no one bid on the buildings. After no one placed any bids, he contacted the Mayor and informed him that he would like to contact Mr. Scinto and see if he may be interested in purchasing the building. However, it was at that time that Mr. Scinto stated that if a commitment came through from Housatonic, he would be willing to be the developer for them.

Mr. Scarlata addressed the floodwall mural. He stated that he hasn't heard back about when the grant option is open. However, he doesn't feel that this will happen at this time. When the grant option opens up, he will contact Eileen and request that she apply for it.

The director of the YMCA in Waterbury, Jim O'Keefe is going to host a class on teen leadership. Mr. Scarlata is planning to attend the event. This is to get teens involved in creating their own groups to do their own initiatives and coordinate themselves.

Mr. Scarlata introduced the new Director of Economic Development, Peter Kelly. Peter stated that he didn't have a speech prepared, but that he took a revised copy of what he presented to the hiring committee during his second interview. He then explained that he took what Bartram and Cochran had developed and broke it into actionable steps that can be taken to promote Economic Development. He broke them out into steps. He will be presenting a Power Point presentation on October 10th at 6:30 at the High School. This is when the long range plan will be presented to the public. The steps he mentioned are: Business recruitment, Business retention, Business expansion He then stated that there is actually an additional step, "Community Building". What he then does is he identifies the assets that make businesses in the community successful. One example is the state finance authority has the C Pace program that helps businesses pay for large scale improvements to their facilities, designed to improve energy efficiency. He then explained that some of the older buildings on Main Street are not as energy efficient as newer buildings. He then stated that one of his jobs is to make these tools available and known to the business community.

Mr. Scarlata then opened the meeting up to questions and/or comments from the audience.

Alderman Charlie Stowe began by congratulating Mr. Kelly on being the new Director of Economic Development and welcomed him to Ansonia. Mr. Stowe stated that he feels that Ansonia is at the stage where "Ansonia is yearning to work together." Mr. Stowe then added that he feels that a "jewel" of the city is the Nature Center. He would like to promote it in the future.

Mr. Kelly stated that the Market analysis is a very helpful tool because when he is trying to market the city, he will be able to use the analysis to show to prospective businesses that there is a need and a demand for a specific business.

Mr. Scarlata asked Mr. Kelly what he felt the relationship would be between the EDC and his office? Also, how would the Commission and his office work together in the future? Mr. Kelly stated that he

would bring ideas to the Commission and they would also bring ideas to him as well. Together they would discuss the ideas and the commission would in turn approve or not approve the suggestions and work together as a team. He then stated that he met with Vance Taylor, Mustapha's broker. Mr. Taylor informed him that Mustapha wants to host a "mini-charrette" (a structured meeting <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charrette>) at the end of October to brainstorm ideas.

Mr. Scarlata asked if anyone had any further questions or comments. There was none. He then entertained motions to adjourn.

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

The meeting ended at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sardinha
Secretary