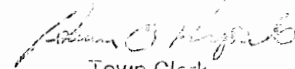


NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON CONNECTICUT
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM LOWER LEVEL ROOM L-102
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 7:00 P.M.

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Town Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Theresa Avey
Commissioner Maria Pane
Commissioner Dana Havens
Commissioner Robert Rioux
Commissioner Mark Siems
Commissioner Jay Slater
Commissioner David Marsden
Commissioner Clifford Stamm
Commissioner Fernando Rosa
Commissioner Jennifer Ancona

Town Manager, Keith Chapman

Town Council Liaisons
Sharon Braverman

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 4, 2019

1. Commissioner Stamm made a motion to approve the minutes.
Commissioner Havens seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

2. January 2, 2020

1. Commissioner Stamm made a motion to approve the minutes.
Commissioner Havens seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

V. TOWN MANAGER: VISION/GROWTH PLAN

Town Manager, Keith Chapman introduced himself and his proposed vision of economic development predicting an economic 'boom!'. Beginning with the Berlin Turnpike. Town Manager Keith Chapman pointed out that even though there is not a lot of space available on the Berlin Turnpike, there is still room for further growth. He encouraged the members of this body to take a different approach to 'resell' our town by taking a look at our re-energized West Hartford center. Mr. Chapman announced that he will be calling on local businesses to see that their needs are being met and to monitor available properties. He also encouraged to personally contact companies and how they compliment having their business, here, in Newington!

As an example, he cited Krispy Kreme and how they were sent a letter of introduction and encouragement to come to Newington three years before they established themselves here in Newington. Also, by personally contacting companies and complimenting their presence in our town, that is how to promote businesses establishing themselves here in Newington! He went on to say that Newington is a great place to live, accommodating a high aging population in the center of town and the establishment of industrial parks and let us continue to make Newington a destination point!. Commissioner Rosa centered attention on his company's activities and what we can do for Newington businesses, for example, when he was Chairman of the Economic Development Commission he met with the town planner!

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deanna Reney, president of the Chamber of Commerce gave her report and Town Manager Keith Chapman recalled how the Economic Development Commission worked extremely well together, adding that the State of the Town will be delivered on May 20, 2020.

VII. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

The executive Direction of the Chamber of Comer, Peter Forcellina reviewed recent Chamber successes and upcoming events, and encouraged everyone to work together closely by developing long and short range planning. He added that there are empty buildings throughout Newington and that retention of businesses is important. Additionally, he will be making 'calling cards' for Economic Development members.

Town Manager Keith Chapman stressed, 'if you are not the lead dog, the scenery is still the same'!

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. District Assignment

Chairman Avey encouraged members to continue making personal calls on businesses, trying not to overlap on another one's assignment and to gather all names and phone numbers for a business card.

B. District Reports

None.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 3 FEBRUARY 5, 2020

C. Discussion of "Newington Means Business" brochure

A subcommittee was established led by Commissioner Marsden and Commissioner Jerilyn Nagel.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Avny announced that she has invited Town Engineer Craig Minor to be our guest at our next meeting.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Stamm has started an Economic Development web site in Connecticut Town's section.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Avey made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Marsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary