


NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
NEWINGTON, CT

2019 MAR 14 AM 10:11

I. CALL TO ORDER


Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Chairman Theresa Avey
Commissioner Maria Pane
Commissioner Dana Havens
Commissioner Scott Greczkowski
Commissioner David Marsden
Commissioner Fernando Rosa
Commissioner Sharon Dunning
Commissioner Robert Rioux

Town Council Liaison Gail Budrejko

Economic Development Director Andrew Brecher

ABSENT:

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Marsden made a motion to accept the February 6, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Greczkowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brecher reported the Town Manager did not favor an expanded social media presence for several reasons. He also advised that the Economic Development section of the Town Website had broken links fixed and text added—and urged commissioners to become familiar with that section of the website and advise of any problems or suggest improvements.

Director Brecher also summarized recent development activities:

- Mayor Zartarian presented testimony, along with Representatives Turco and Wood, to the Transportation Committee of the Legislature supporting HB7098—An Act Concerning Commuter Rail Infrastructure, that calls for building a train station in Newington.
- Pro Health Physicians Pediatrics opened at its new location at 141 Willard Avenue, former location of Asia Grocers.
- Site plans have been submitted to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a new day care center on the vacant parcel at 395 Willard Avenue.
- LifeWay Church closed on its purchase of 2170-2172 Berlin Turnpike, former location of Super Clubs. The church announced its intention to continue to operate the day care operation under a new name, LifeWay Learning Center.
- At 262 Brockett Street, grand opening celebrations were held for Artichoke Basille's Pizza restaurant and RE:NU 180 MedSpa.
- UBREAKIFIX opened in the former JT Ghamo Tuxedo space at 3275 Berlin Turnpike.
- Chick-fil-A intends to open at 3275 Berlin Turnpike on March 14, 2019.
- Industrial Protection Products opened at 3310 Berlin Turnpike.
- Site work continues at 3443 Berlin Turnpike for a new O'Reilly Auto Parts store.
- Surveying along the Berlin Turnpike and Rt. 175 appears to be by CT DOT crews, likely as part of a new signalization project they have been working on according to the Town Engineer.

Director Brecher confirmed that all commissioners had received Mayor Zartarian's invitation to attend the CERC Municipal Economic Development Training session on Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 8:30-10:30 am at Jefferson House. He also urged them to use the link included in the invitation to complete the survey as requested as soon as possible.

VII. OLD BUSINESS.

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners agreed to reestablish "Districts" and to assign commissioners to monitor commercial activity within specific geographic areas. Commissioner Havens volunteered to search for collateral material that had been prepared several years ago. Director Brecher will work with the Town's IT Department to develop a new map.

Director Brecher led a review of the Lamont-Bysiewicz Transition Policy Committee report on Jobs/Economy. The wide-ranging discussion considered the three areas of strategic recommendations: Accountability in agencies and programs, Development of talent and workforce, and Encouragement of an urban renaissance.

IX. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Pete Forcellina, Executive Director of the Chamber, reported that 18 new enterprises joined the Chamber in the past four months. The new Business Seminar Series debuted February 26, 2019, with three more seminars planned in the next few months. He reminded commissioners that the State of the Town would be held the next morning, March 7, 2019, at the High School and that the 7:00 a.m. Network meetings are held every Wednesday at Middlewoods of Newington. In addition, he advised that he is working with the Environmental Quality Commission on a new initiative to promote Earth Day every day.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marsden made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Havens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Sophie Glenn,
Recording Secretary