



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes – November 15, 2017

Present: J. Gordon, J. Leonard, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** J. Gordon moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the October minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – the First Selectman provided an update on the state budget, noting that the TRB [teacher retirement benefit proposal] was not included and that while municipal aid was essentially intact, it includes cuts to rent rebates for seniors, eliminated the circuit breaker provision, as well as impacts the Town Aid for Roads [TAR] and Education Cost Sharing [ECS] formulae. The General Assembly is planning a special session to further refine the budget.
 - B. **P&Z** – Accepted: sanitary sewer easement for existing sewer main at 325-329 E. Main St. [Royal Cinema], and for 158, 167, 202 and 211 Harbor Street for the upcoming bridge replacement project, and a 35 day extension for a site plan for retail at 110 North Main St.; approved the bond for site work at 618-622 Main St. [Dow/Tyco], held a public hearings on November 16th for a special exception for a place of worship at 7-9 Business Park Drive and for a PDD modification and master plan amendment for a proposed hotel at 4-6 Indian Neck Avenue.
 - C. **Chamber** - R. Sgueglia reported that the Chamber's annual Dancing with the Stars event was again a success and may return next year, its holiday BAH will December 5th at Bill Miller's, the annual dinner will be January 25th, and that membership is at 621.
 - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca referred everyone to a November 4th article in the Register on progress at Atlantic Wharf project, that the TOD public meetings are completed and the consultants are now drafting the final report; the POCD steering committee held its first meeting on October 19th and announced a series of upcoming meetings including a public meeting on November 29th and a "listening session" for development issues on January 24th, a draft plan is scheduled for mid-April, and that C. Lezon represents the EDC on the steering committee.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** The EDC's website RFP received almost thirty proposals; the website committee will review the proposals and determine which should be interviewed and then make a vendor recommendation to the commission.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported the state's Consumer Counsel's broadband policy office survived budget cuts, which has been working on a 'tool kit' for municipalities interested in broadband.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** *Richlin Home & Auto* owner Richard Amerling and manager Steve Milano were presented with the EDC's "Business Recognition Award." The commission's site visit and tour to FreeThink Technologies was discussed, as well as plans for its December 7th reception at the Blackstone for CURE's outgoing and incoming CEOs.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
 - B. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The EDC's next meeting is Wed., December 20th. With no further business, J. Leonard moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Gordon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]