

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 12, 2015**

1

Members present: Fred Hyatt, Randy Vidal, Mary Dean, Christopher Pia, John Dobos, Brian Oliver and Robyn Greenspan (Alt).

Others present: Karen Kaiser and Amy Knorr (Economic Development), Councilman Jason Santi and Mayor John Harkins (arrived 5:23).

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Dobos called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2015

- MS. GREENSPAN MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. PIA, TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Commercial Grand List – The Town’s Commercial Grand List has grown \$79 million this past year.

Sikorsky Airport Upgrade/Main Street – Ms. Knorr reported that Main Street will re-open May 22 for the summer and then close again in late August. The project should be finished by October.

Raymark Superfund Site – A conceptual agreement has been reached between all the parties.. 52% of the Raymark waste will be shipped out of Stratford. The rest of the waste will be removed to Raymark Ball Park and capped .

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) –The TOD Overlay Zone was unanimously approved by the Zoning Commission.

Remington Woods/ Lake Success – Mayor Harkins met with Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch to discuss the remediation and development of this property.

Exit 33 Interchange - The Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization has approved \$24 million in funding. There is opposition from Milford (Tretz Corporation). Ms. Knorr suggested that the Commission send another letter supporting Exit 33. Chairman Dobos will draft a letter and submit it to the Commission members for electronic vote.

Stratford Army Engine Plant – The DEEP is talking with Point Stratford Renewal and the Army on plans for the cleanup. Mayor Harkins advised that there has been a lot of back and forth on the amount of material to be dredged. The Army did more testing and found more bad material. It will take 18 to 24 months to clean up the way PSR wants it done. It will take even longer if the DEEP gets its way.

1350 Barnum Avenue – Advanced Auto Parts has received zoning approval for a new 6,000 sq. ft. retail building.

Sunbelt Rentals – New company to Stratford. Occupies 13,000 sq. ft. building at 85 Mead Street. They have created four new jobs.

Triple A/Ferry Blvd. – Has received zoning approval to build a new facility at 382 Ferry Blvd. for an office and garage. There was some opposition by the neighbors but trucks will only be allowed to exit onto Ferry Blvd.

Johnny's Restaurant/Honeyspot Road – Bought by John Miranda, owner of the Frog Pond.

711/Barnum Avenue – A new convenience store will be leasing this site.

Popeye's Chicken – Has received zoning approval to locate at the Dock Shopping Center on the Stop & Shop side.

LA Fitness/411 Barnum Avenue Cutoff – Work has begun and LA Fitness hopes to open by the end of 2015.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. "Deli Days" - Mayor Harkins idea. Would be like Restaurant Week.
- b. Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament is June 1st.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chairman Dobos and Mr. Vidal are working with Soundview Communications on the Stratford video for the Town's website.
- b. The Chair Program kicks off on June 3. They are working on placement for the benches. They are approaching businesses that didn't already sponsor a bench.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail J. Nobili
Secretary