

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING OF JULY 14, 2015**

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Members present: Fred Hyatt, Randy Vidal, John Dobos, Brian Oliver and James Benson

Others present: Karen Kaiser and Amy Knorr (Economic Development), Councilman Jason Santi

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Dobos called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2015

- MR. HYATT MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. BENSON, 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. In addition, through foreclosure of properties that have been delinquent in their taxes for years the Town has collected more than \$2 million in back taxes in 2014 and 2015.

Sikorsky Airport Upgrade/Main Street – Ms. Knorr reported that Main Street will close again on July 27 for approximately two weeks. It will be open once school starts.

Mercer Coal Towers – Demolition on the yellow house and towers is starting and will be completed by the end of August.

Stratford Avenue Streetscape Project: The State is paying the construction costs for a streetscape improvement project for the Stratford Avenue/Honeyspot Road intersection. Stratford is funding the design work.

Stratford Army Engine Plant – Last element to be addressed is the scope of the cleanup. The Army Corps of Engineers and CT DEEP are meeting the end of July to discuss cleanup of the mudflats and dredging of the Housatonic. For the record, Chairman Dobos added that the EDC is very concerned about keeping this project on track.

Federal Express Distribution Center – Stratford Land Development has sold its property off of Lordship Blvd. The new owners are building a 225,000 sq. ft. building which will be leased to Fedex. The new owners will receive a 9 year tax abatement from the Town.

Lil Mo’s restaurant – A lease has been signed and an American Family restaurant will be taking over this site.

1019 Main Street - A developer has bought the property and is planning a ten unit condominium.

Triple A/Ferry Blvd. – Has received zoning approval to build a new facility at 382 Ferry Blvd. for an office and garage. A lawsuit was filed by the neighbors and this has stalled the project. The attorneys are trying to work everything out.

4 NEW BUSINESS

- The Commission members discussed publishing articles, buying space in the newspaper and using Facebook to get the word out that positive things are happening in Stratford. Mr. Benson suggested also writing a letter of support for the WPCA regionalization. There is a lot of misinformation being spread by the opposition.

- MR. BENSON MOVED THAT THE EDC RESEARCH THE WPCA REGIONALIZATION ISSUE AND THEN PUBLISH AN ARTICLE INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF THE BENEFITS OF REGIONALIZATION AS WELL AS THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON STRATFORD IF THE SALE AND REGIONALIZATION DO NOT OCCUR. MR. VIDAL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Artwork Under the Bridge – The artist who did the previous mural would like to do another mural for the opposite wall. Ms. Knorr had a copy of what the artist proposes. The cost would be \$3,500. Mr. Vidal stated that he likes the mural but the EDC has other priorities at this time. The other members agreed. Chairman Dobos will refer the mural to the Arts Commission.

- Transit-Oriented Development – The Town has been awarded \$1.2 million for the remediation of Center School.

5. OLD BUSINESS – no business

6. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail J. Nobili
Secretary