

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2015**

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Members present: Randy Vidal, John Dobos, Christopher Pia, James Benson, and Brian Oliver

Others present: Karen Kaiser and Amy Knorr (Economic Development) and Richard Fredette

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Dobos called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

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

3. UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

- Ms. Kaiser reported on the First Annual Business Recognition Awards to be held at Joey C's on October 26, 2015. The three award categories are: 1) New Companies to Stratford, 2) Retained Stratford Companies that have Expanded, and 3) DECD Small Business Express Program. All the details are on the EDC website.

- Ms. Kaiser also reported that she, Ms. Knorr, the CAO, Mayor Harkins and Brian Bidolli recently gave a presentation to national developers at Mohegan Sun. Stratford was one of 11 Connecticut Towns chosen. Ms. Kaiser presented the Contract Plating and Center School sites.

- Ms. Knorr updated the Commission as follows:

- Center School – Now that the Town Council has accepted a \$1,205,000 Grant from the Connecticut DECD, the next step is to do a Phase III assessment. Students still attend Center School so we are waiting for the Board of Education to make other arrangements for the students.
- Transit Oriented District (TOD) – The GBRC helped Stratford obtain a \$200,000 Grant from the Office of Policy Management (OPM) for a streets improvement plan to further develop transportation choices for the area one-half mile around the Train Station. The Town has received 7 proposals and will be conducting interviews.
- Sikorsky Airport UpGrade/Main Street – Main Street is re-opened.
- Contract Plating (540 Longbrook Avenue) – Cleanup of the barrels of cyanide continues.
- Mercer Coal Towers – The towers are coming down.
- Wade's Garage/Stratford Avenue – Still proceeding with eviction of former owner.
- Stratford Avenue Streetscape Project: The State has approved the Town's design and the RFP has gone out.
- Exist 33 Interchange – No date yet for the DOT hearing.
- Route 110 Traffic Study – Still working on plans.

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- Stratford Army Engine Plant –The Army Corps of Engineers is now involved and there will be a meeting of all parties in October. The Army Corps of Engineers has just contracted with a consultant to conduct their own analysis.
- Ross & Roberts (W. Broad Street) - Property has officially been listed with a broker. The Town is also working to improve the traffic in that area.
- Hawley Lane Medical Building – Construction has begun near the Big Y.
- Christ Church Parking lot – Zoning approved its application to build multi-unit apartments under the new TOD Overlay Zone.
- Kaster Moving Co. (400 Long Beach Blvd) – Expanding to 87,000 sq. ft. for storage. Employs 40 employees.
- Maxwells – New restaurant on Main Street has opened in the former Lil Mo's site.
- The Lazy Dog – A family restaurant that is opening in the former Sienna site on Main Street.
- 1019 Main Street – Developer is planning a 10 unit condominium. Has presented his plan to Zoning, but no decision yet.
- Popeye's Chicken – Appealing the zoning denial to locate at The Dock.

- It was noted that Ms. Kaiser is one of three women being honored on October 16, 2015, by the Bridgeport Regional Business Council's Women's Leadership Council. The other two women are the EDC Directors of Bridgeport and Trumbull. Mr. Pia made a motion to take out an ad in the newspaper to congratulate Ms. Kaiser. Mr. Vidal seconded. After discussion about the expense, it was decided that the Commission's congratulations should be posted on the website. The Commission expressed their thanks to Ms. Kaiser for all the work she had done for the Town.

5. NEW BUSINESS – no business

6. OLD BUSINESS – no business

7. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail J. Nobili  
Secretary