

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
AMENDED MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2015**

1

Members present: John Dobos, Christopher Pia, James Benson, Fred Hyatt, Mary Dean, Brian Oliver and Robyn Greenspan (Alt.) and Randy Vidal (arrived 5:15 p.m.)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Dobos called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

- Chairman Dobos reported that the meeting with the various Board Chairman will be scheduled after the new Council is sworn in and the new Council EDC representatives are appointed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2015

- MR. PIA MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. BENSON, TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED 7-0.

3. UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

- Ms. Knorr updated the Commission as follows:

- Center School – The Board of Education meeting was tabled as the Board needs more information. 19 students in the STRIVE Program (disabled adults) as well as the AIP (suspended) students need to be relocated.
- Contract Plating (540 Longbrook Avenue) – The main building is demolished and the 3 auxiliary buildings are in the process of being demolished. After demolition is complete, an RFQ will go out for a developer. The level of cleanup needed will depend on what is built there.
- Stratford Avenue Streetscape – RFP has gone out to bid.
- Route 110 Traffic Study – The proposed plans were presented to the Committee and the public in November. There are 4 possible plans. Mr. Hyatt brought up that Sikorsky is opposed to any change to their entrance.
- Stratford Army Engine Plant – The Army Corps of Engineers is supposed to have a plan in place by January. The Army Corps is not as strict about the level of cleanup as is the Connecticut DEEP. The Army Corps trumps the DEEP.
- Event at Jarvis Center – Ms. Knorr reported that the EDC had recently attended an event at the Jarvis Center. There were 15 rows of retailers and developers looking for locations. The EDC promoted the Ross and Roberts property.
- Burns Construction (Access Road) – Burns Construction is building a new building at their current location and also looking for a site for additional parking. It has been located in Stratford since the 1960's. Planning to hire an additional 300 employees over the next few years.
- New Companies to Stratford – MDJ Studios from Brooklyn (740 Woodend Road), Merrimac Building Supply from Berlin, CT (85 Lupes Drive), and Bristol Fashion Cabinetry and Millwork (64 Dodge Avenue).
- Sikorsky sale to Lockheed - The official purchase by Lockheed was November 6.

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- New Breweries – Two new small breweries coming to Stratford – Fairfield Craft Ales (Honeyspot Road), and Church Owl Brewery (Access Road) makes gluten-free beer.
- New Downtown Restaurants – Maxwells at the former Lil Mo's site, The Lazy Dog at the former Sienna site, and Kirby's Club Car at the former Nikki's site.
- Fitness Edge – Moving to The Dock Shopping Center and taking over the former Staples. Trying to open by January.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Yearly meeting schedule for 2016 - ON MOTION BY MR. PIA AND SECONDED BY MS. GREENSPAN, THE TIME OF THE MEETINGS FOR 2016 WAS CHANGED TO 5:30 P.M. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

5. OLD BUSINESS – no business

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail J. Nobili
Secretary