



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Hamden Government Center
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The **Economic Development Commission**, Town of Hamden, held a **Special Meeting** on Tuesday, June 27th at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman, Donald Moses; Executive Director, Erik Johnson; Anthony DelGrego; Dashone Hughey; Howard K. Hill; Anthony Sacchetti; John Keegan

Staff in attendance: Clerk, Robert Velez

Residents in attendance: Stocky Clark

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

2. Public comments

- i) **Eileen Devries-** Asked for an accounting or balance sheet or business plan regarding how much the town will roughly make to address the town's billion dollar debt so that the town may benefit from the High Meadows project.
- ii) **Donald Lecy-** Commented on the request for proposals for developing the former High Meadows Childrens Center have been withdrawn and he thought it was a possibility that the potential gains of the proposals presented would not offset the town debt, or the proposals failed on non financial grounds. He stated that this was enough and that the economic analysis of the town had cost a significant amount and Hamden is not in a place to recoup these sunk costs.
- iii) **Sarah Clark-** Asked how the updates of High Meadows would be shared with the town. Commented that she is hopeful that tonight's meeting will be shared in more accessible ways for people not familiar with the conventional methods of sharing.

- iv) **Robert Scymanski**- Commented that High Meadow road is one of the shortest high speed roads in the area. Shared concern that High Meadow has dangers and that a property with 300 plus units would create more traffic from prospective residents.
3. **Acceptance of previous meeting minutes:** Chairman Moses called to defer approval of minutes until July. The approval of May's meeting minutes as only 4 commissioners were listed, suggesting Quorum had not been achieved; as well as an incorrect name listed for the presenter. Commissioner Sacchetti called a motion to defer May's minutes. Commissioner Delgrego seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hill called a motion to accept April's minutes. Commissioner Delgrego seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Chairman Report:**

- i) Business community update- Noble mixed use project has begun. Gas station and residential. Any inquiry can be made with Planning Department.
- ii) Projects on Shepard have begun
- iii) Technology Committee can develop pathway for developing spreadsheets on updates regarding town projects.
- iv) Comment from Director Erik Johnson: Building Department, Planning and Zoning, and Engineering currently on the same platform and can be addressed in Viewpoint.

5. **Executive Director Report:**

- i) **Viewpoint** is becoming a point of access for approved activities in Hamden.
 - a. The challenge has been getting all administrative activities on one platform; The technology is developing currently with Viewpoint.
- ii) **Noble Energy Project** is now under construction.
- iii) **55 Sherman Avenue** is under construction
- iv) **Brewery in Town Center** still working through zoning issues regarding parking. No
- v) Working on submitting 4 grant applications through the community investment fund.
 - a. One is for the project on State St with Regan Development and pedestrian improvement along State St
 - b. Planning grant for extension of the sewer line along Whitney Ave.
 - c. Community Campus, Looking for additional resources to support community facilities and recreation, art spaces that are part of the Mayor's vision.
 - d. Improvements to the ice rink and tennis court at the high school but are owned by the town.
- vi) **High Meadows**- A determination was made by the procurement official to pull back and reissue an RFP within the next week. Changes to RFP will be on website, RFP will be due end of August. Executive Director commented that no one project will reduce the mill rate. The proposals submitted carve out room for open space in this development.
- vii)

- viii) **Old Middle School-** There are plans to demolish the old middle school. An RFP has been developed for the demolition and environmental assessment of both structures. It is currently being reviewed by the Department of Economic Community Development.
- ix) **Construction of New Fire Station on Putnam St**
- x) **Community Engagement Manager-** The town is soliciting for a Community Engagement Manager.
- xi) **Plan to address storm water and drainage issues**
- xii) **Small Business Grant Program-** Launch of a pilot small business grant program to cultivate small business growth in select areas of Hamden.

6. Old business: There was no old business to discuss

7. New Business:

a. Elections:

- i. **Chair:** Commissioner Hill made a motion to re-elect Chairman Moses, Commissioner Keegan seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously
 - ii. **Vice Chair:** Commissioner Sacchetti made a motion to reelect Commissioner Hughey as Vice Chair. Commissioner Delgrego seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- b.** Chairman Moses inquired about a motion to make the committees a part of policy and permanent standing committees. This includes the IT Committee, Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Business Development Committee. Commissioner Keegan made a motion; seconded by Chairman Moses. The motion passed unanimously.
- c.** Chairman Moses sought feedback on extending the Chair and Vice Chair positions in effort to achieve stronger result. Feedback was that there is merit into looking at the term of officers being extended so that The commission could have greater impact in it's role. Commissioner Delgrego commented that it should be a two year term. Another comment was that 4 year terms would be appropriate. Commissioner Delgrego made a motion to extend to two year term. Commissioner Sacchetti seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously, The new term for Economic Development Officers will be two years.

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:14pm