

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
SPECIAL MEETING – December 9, 2021  
7:00pm, Plainville Municipal Center  
Room 302**

**PRESENT:** Val Dumais, Nancy Autunno, Mark Chase, Marc Romanow, Tim Maynard, Joseph Klepacki

**STAFF:** Cal Hauburger – Economic Development Coordinator

**ABSENT:** Helen Bergenty, Robert Berube

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Val Dumais at 7:00pm

Prior to any votes taking place, a motion was made by Nancy Autunno to elevate Marc Romanow from Alternate Member for the purpose of meeting votes. **This motion was seconded by Joe Klepacki. All were in favor and Marc Romanow was elevated from Alternate for the meeting.**

**II. Oral Petitions**

There were no Oral Petitions.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2021, by Joe Klepacki and was seconded by Nancy Autunno. **All were in favor and meeting minutes were approved.**

**IV. New Business**

**1. Discussion & Vote – Extension/Elimination of EDA’s Partially Forgivable Loan Option**

Economic Development Coordinator, Cal Hauburger provided a summary of the Partially Forgivable Loan Program offered by the Plainville EDA starting in Spring of 2021. With COVID raging and business operation limitations put in place, the Plainville EDA proposed making changes to the existing EDA Loan Program aimed at keeping existing Plainville businesses open, operational, and located in Town. Since ratification by the Town Council at the April 5, 2021, meeting, only one Plainville business took advantage

of the program in Big Steve's Grill. Since that date, no other business had applied for the program, despite it being advertised online and in papers. This could be attributed to additional relief funding options having been offered at the State and Federal level with similar or lower interest rates, higher ceilings, and in many cases, were forgivable.

After discussion among members, a motion was made to eliminate the program, effective December 31, 2021, with the option for the EDA to meet, and vote to reinstate the program offering, should the economic climate, due to COVID, cause a renewed need to do so. **The motion to do the above was made by Joe Klepacki and seconded by Nancy Autunno. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

## **V. Other Business**

### **1. Discussion and Vote – 2022 Meeting Options**

Proposed 2022 meeting dates were presented to EDA members. Per Town Charter, the EDA will meet the third Thursday of each month, in Room 302 of the Plainville Municipal Center, beginning at 7:00pm. Proposed dates were reviewed by members, and Chairman Val Dumais suggested moving the proposed March 17, 2022, meeting a week earlier to March 10, 2022, if available, to avoid potential conflict with St. Patrick's Day.

Cal Hauburger said he would confirm with the Town Clerk that March 10, 2022 would be able to be scheduled without conflict from other Board & Commission meetings. When confirmed, Cal Hauburger would send final notice of 2022 meeting dates to members. **This was motioned by Mark Chase and seconded by Nancy Autunno to approve the 2022 meeting dates with the caveat of potential change to the March meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

### **2. General Discussion – Economic Update**

Cal Hauburger provided a general Economic Update to members regarding some of the larger projects going on in Town including some potential development to occur at CT Commons. Plans were received by the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding some changes to vacant units and the construction of additional loading docks, dumpsters and curb cuts for a potential future tenant. That tenant is unknown at this point as the Town has been dealing with a third-party firm, but hopes to receive further news after the holidays.

An update was also provided regarding the current work being undertaken by Town Staff for the impending CT Communities Challenge Grant program being offered by CTDECD and the hope that funds would be awarded for the White Oak redevelopment project with monies going towards construction of an entrance/exit boulevard, site work, utilities, and a potential CT Fastrack stop.

Further updates were given regarding the White Oak redevelopment project and Town efforts to finalize agreements with the CT Brownfield Landbank, Manafort-Newport Realty, and CT DECD.

Final updates were given regarding Town Staff changes including the impending retirement of Town Manager Robert Lee, and the resignation of Councilman Jesse Gnazzo.

A brief discussion occurred among members and Town Staff with further questions on some smaller projects around Town including details on a previously granted Tax Abatement offered to the former Chung property on New Britain Avenue, development of Willowbrook Estates, and the Town Staff tour of the Americold Building on Northwest Drive.

## **VI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Nancy Autunno to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Joe Klepacki. **All were in favor and the motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Amber Viteri*

Amber Viteri

Recording Secretary