

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MINUTES – Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 1, 2021, 5:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers, City Hall

ATTENDEES: Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, Council Member Preleski, Commissioners Mills, Hick, Schmelder, Goldwasser, Cyr, Rasmussen-Tuller, Zammett

ABSENT: - - -

STAFF PRESENT: Justin Malley, Executive Director; Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator; Dawn Nielsen, Marketing & PR Specialist

- I. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and introduced the commissioners.
- II. Public Participation – There was no public participation
- III. **Commissioner Mills made a motion to accept the minutes of June 3, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller. All commissioners present voted in favor and the minutes were accepted.**
- IV. Consent Agenda
Commissioner Goldwasser made a motion to file the Consent Agenda seconded by Commissioner Cyr. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.
- V. New Business

A. Marketing Update and “Made in Bristol” Video Reveal

Dawn Nielsen provided an update on recent marketing activity, including the new mural and opening day of the Farmers Market. We can now offer EBT and SNAP benefits at the Farmers Market.

There are over 21 businesses celebrating milestone anniversaries. This will continue throughout the summer and fall. There has been good response from the businesses that have been highlighted. We are also receiving a silver Telly award for the 3 short videos we did for Firefly Brewing, Main Street Pint and Plate and Café Real.

The new video was shown which highlights several new businesses in Bristol. Dawn introduced the businesses who are featured in this video, which was produced by Signature Advertising.

B. J.H. Sessions Project

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu reported it has been a big week with the 2M\$ grant announced and the Press event.

Justin brought forth a question which was asked by Mr. Ernest Pitti. He asked about possible cost overruns due to unknowns. We were awarded the max for this project (2.2 million). Justin explained that it is the LEP’s (licensed environmental professional) job to manage the work and contain the costs. There are also other funding options which may be available if needed.

C. Route 72 Streetscape Study and Design Concepts

This ties in with Sessions and our long term strategy. This is a Public Works Department project and is conceptual at this point. Justin added that the Public Works staff will pursue American Rescue Act funding also for this project.

D. American Rescue Plan Task Force Update

The Task Force met last week. The City expects to receive more parameters by July 16 so the next meeting is scheduled at that time. Commissioner Schmelder commented that the breakout sessions were very helpful. Commissioner Goldwasser defined the three breakout groups: Business Development, City, and Non-Profit.

E. Project Status Updates

- The assisted living project (Kind Care) is going ahead and Justin is working on an incentive package. This will most likely be a tax abatement. We are currently speaking with the Town of Naugatuck that is working on a very similar project and working on incentives as well. This request is drafted and may come to the board next month.
- SEBBP amendment has been approved by all the property owners. BHF has planning approval and is off to wetlands and zoning. EcoSmart (Lot # 6) also needs a wider drive opening. Their site plan should be forthcoming. There will probably be an Industrial Committee meeting in August.
- We have had several conversations with cannabis cultivators and manufacturers. We need to begin these discussions now. There is a strong preference for new construction due to the highly regulated factor of these businesses.

VI. New Business by Commissioners – There was no new business by commissioners.

VII. Old Business by Commissioners

Commissioner Cyr inquired if there has been any interest in 894 Middle Street. Justin replied there has been some interest but none appropriate to the site. We have not yet marketed the site very aggressively due to a few remaining tasks that need to be wrapped up.

VIII. Any Other Business

A. City Council Member Report

- Council Member Preleski reported that the Memorial Boulevard school project is moving along nicely and is under budget so far. There was a recent beam signing. The windows will be installed in July and they are currently framing and sheet rocking the classrooms. They also continue to work on the theatre.
- The retirement board put out an RFP for its investment manager. This now goes to the Board of Finance.

Justin added that the CAPER was approved.

Motion was made to enter into Executive Session at 5:44 p.m.

IX. Executive Session

- A. Economic Development Grant Request – Downtown Grant
- B. Centre Square Update – Purchase and Sale Agreement

Motion was made and seconded to come out of Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

Commissioner Hick made a motion to approve a Downtown Grant to C & R Printing, LLC/Bottino Realty, LLC, of up to \$8,837.68 representing 50% of the cost to repave the premises known as 381 Riverside Avenue in Bristol, and to forward to the Board of Finance for informational purposes. Commissioner Goldwasser seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

- X. Commissioner Goldwasser made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Cyr. All present voted in favor – meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary