

## MINUTES

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MADDEN ROOM  
SOUTH WINDSOR TOWN HALL**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, July 27, 2016  
TIME: 7:30 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:** Louise Neary, Joseph Kennedy, Alternate David Starr (sat for Paul Burnham), James Murray, Wayne Kilburn, Alternate John Mitchell (sat for William Jodice), Dwight Johnson, Linda Jeski, Susan Burnham, Edwina Futtner,

**ABSENT:** Chairperson Paul Burnham, David Marsh, William Jodice, Alternate Cindy Beaulieu, Town Council liaison Carolyn Mirek

**1. Call Meeting to Order:** Vice Chairperson Louise Neary called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

**2. Roll Call:** The above-mentioned members were introduced.

**3. Matt Galligan**

Carla's Pasta Tax Abatement: Town Manager Matt Galligan reviewed the application for tax abatement for this business (PDF attached). The business had been considering a move to Utah which is why the abatement of 70% for the first seven years has been proposed. Commissioner Neary asked if in the event of a change in management could they move elsewhere and Mr. Galligan responded that once they sign the document, and agree to the terms, they are committed to staying in South Windsor for ten years. Commissioner Mitchell commented that the business and family are an asset to the town. Commissioner Starr asked how states like Utah find out about small family businesses and Mr. Galligan explained that other states have scouts that attend conferences and trade shows to try and bring businesses to their state. Connecticut doesn't have scouts because it is considered a criticism against the people that spend time and money courting businesses and that the money could be spent elsewhere. Money is not spent on the state level for advertising either. Commissioner Jeski asked about a previous tax abatement and Mr. Galligan said that it expires next year. Commissioner Kilburn asked if five years would be sufficient and Mr. Galligan stated that this level works for both parties and helps to ensure that the business stays in Connecticut. Commissioner S. Burnham asked if any other abatements have been granted at a level of 70% and Mr. Galligan named quite a few businesses such as ALDI and Fed Ex. Commissioner Kilburn asked about the increase in jobs as a result and Mr. Galligan responded about 10 jobs will be created.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Kilburn and **seconded** by Commissioner Mitchell to support the 70% for the first seven years for Carla's Pasta Inc. and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

Town Manager Galligan then provided some Economic Development Updates:

- The hotel at Evergreen Walk has pulled their building permits.

- MassTech Corporation is suing Eversource over a Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA). DCK will be taking over and submitting site plans. Another project may come to fruition that will impact the placement of the studio on the property.
- Eagle Tissue is expanding.
- Mr. Galligan expressed the need for an assistant town manager or EDC Coordinator position which will be looked into further this fall.
- Also exploring an executive secretary for Human Resources.
- Mr. Galligan is exploring a free media for towns to market themselves through a website, mayors.tv, which is run by CGI Communications. The site is supported by businesses in the town and offers free marketing for nonprofits.

**4. Public Participation:** None

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from Regular Meeting on 6/22/2016: A **motion** was made by Commissioner S. Burnham and **seconded** by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the minutes of June 22, 2016 with the following corrections:

Item 3. Pg.1: "...listed as a CT business..." and change "printing business" to "imprinting business"

Item 4. Pg. 1: Ms. Mirek is the Town Council liaison not Board of Selectmen

Item 8. Pg. 3: should read "Commissioner Neary will run July's meeting"

*Motion passed with a majority. Commissioner Jeski and Vice Chairperson Neary abstain.*

**6. Old Business**

Sub-committee report regarding website updates: No updates.

Sub-committee report regarding Mission Statement: Commissioner Neary informed the sub-committee that, as per Chairperson P. Burnham's request, the draft is due at the September meeting. Commissioner Neary reported that Simsbury is moving towards eliminating their Economic Development Commission in favor of a Cultural Commission (separate from the Parks & Recreation Department).

**7. Committee Report**

Discover South Windsor: Commissioner S. Burnham reported that the Chamber hired an Executive Director, Kathy Brady. There will be another meet and greet this week at the Chamber's Open House on Thursday, July 28, 2016 from 5-7pm. Discussions have taken place regarding reigniting the Discover South Windsor site and the EDC's involvement.

Upcoming event: the EDC has been invited to the Business After Hours at Revolutions on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7pm. May be free for commission members-RSVP to the Chamber by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**8. New Business:** None.

**9. Communications and Remarks**

Report from Paul Burnham, Chairperson: Commissioner Neary shared that Courtney Henderson from CERC will be at the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**10. General Discussion**

Next Meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Madden Room.

**11. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner S. Burnham and seconded by Commissioner Kilburn to adjourn at 8:15pm and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Catherine Potter  
Clerk

**Approved: September 28, 2016**