

MINUTES

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

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, November 16, 2016
TIME: 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chairperson Paul Burnham, Susan Burnham, William Jodice, Alternate David Marsh (sat for Wayne Kilburn), Linda Jeski, Louise Neary, Joseph Kennedy, James Murray, Alternate David Starr (sat for Edwina Futtner), Dwight Johnson and Council Liaison Carolyn Mirek, and Alternate John Mitchell (arr. at 7:42p.m.)

ABSENT: Wayne Kilburn, Edwina Futtner and Cindy Beaulieu

ALSO PRESENT: Kathy Brady, Executive Director, South Windsor Chamber of Commerce

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Chairperson P. Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.
- 2. Roll Call:** The above-mentioned members were introduced.
- 3. Guest – Kathy Brady**

Introduction of and discussion with Kathy Brady, Executive Director, South Windsor Chamber of Commerce: Chairperson P. Burnham introduced Ms. Brady to the commission and reviewed the recent projects the commission has been working on. Ms. Brady reported that she attended a networking event this evening before coming to the meeting and has been trying to meet as many people as she can. The EXPO was successful-well attended with a lot of vendors. Ms. Brady invited members to the Chamber's Holiday Social to be held on Tuesday, December 6 from 5:30-9pm at the Mill on the River. Ms. Brady also informed the commission of the date for the Women's Conference on March 28, 2017 at Maneeley's. The event attendance is usually about 250 women and the event has an educational and inspirational focus. Ms. Brady expressed surprise that there is no brochure at the Chamber for 'Welcome to South Windsor' and that the Chamber looking to do a new phone book and wants to grow membership. Ms. Brady has been at the helm of the Chamber only since July 1 and has been working hard. Commissioner S. Burnham asked about extra phone books for her condo complex and explained the history and current status of the Discover South Windsor website. Ms. Brady will check with current staff about the status of the website and stated that there are plenty of phone books at the Chamber offices. Chairperson P. Burnham explained the role that Shari Fiveash, and her coworker, played an important in touching base with businesses in town regarding expansion and retention. Ms. Brady replied that she has been hired to represent the members of the Chamber and is focused on this but that the overall responses from businesses she's visited has been positive. Ms. Brady will be looking at the Chamber membership fee structure in the new year. Commissioner Neary suggested highlighting businesses each month. Chairperson P. Burnham suggested that the commission be a part of the Chamber in some way.

4. Public Participation: None.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Regular Meeting on 10/26/2016: A **motion** was made by Commissioner Neary and **seconded** by Commissioner Jeski to approve the minutes of October 26, 2016 and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.* Commissioner S. Burnham and Commissioner Murray abstained.

6. Old Business

- Sub-committee report regarding website updates: None.
- Sub-committee report regarding Mission Statement: Chairperson P. Burnham shared that the proposed Mission Statement was given to the Town Manager and approved. Chairperson P. Burnham asked Commissioner Marsh to speak with IT to get the Mission Statement on the website.
- Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) Training January 25, 2016 at 6:00 pm: Chairperson P. Burnham is working on this training session and shared the draft agenda.

7. Committee Report

Discover South Windsor: None.

8. New Business

Meeting Schedule for 2017: Commissioner Neary shared that she will be missing the first three meetings of the new year.

Commissioner S. Burnham asked about the Star Center and Commissioner Kennedy shared that he heard cheering from an adjoining room within town hall indicating a positive outcome from the latest meeting.

Commissioner S. Burnham asked about the casino proposal and Council Liaison Mirek stated that the project is not supposed to be discussed but that a zone change must be approved by Planning & Zoning in order for the project to move forward. Concerns about the project could be brought forward during the public hearing. Chairperson Mitchell expressed the hope that the Council listens to their constituency before voting. Commissioner Mitchell stated that a portion of the land where the casino would be built is owned by an unknown entity.

Ms. Brady shared that the Panera Bread Grand Opening is on Monday morning and Friday night is a South Windsor Education Foundation fund raising event.

9. Communications and Remarks

Report from Paul Burnham, Chairperson:

- December meeting? Abatement requests that need to be discussed. Chairperson P. Burnham will find out from the Town Manager and Ms. Thompson to determine meeting room availability and schedule a date. Commission members will be informed of the date as soon as it has been determined. Commissioner Mitchell asked about whether a retail establishment can be granted abatement according to the guidelines. Commissioner Jeski asked if she should recuse herself from discussion of the retail abatement request and Chairperson P. Burnham suggested contacting the town attorney for a decision. Commissioner Jodice requested that the abatement applications be sent out to the members prior to the meeting.

10. General Discussion

Next Meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2017 at **6:00** p.m. in the Madden Room.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 8:20p.m. was made by Commissioner S. Burnham and seconded by Commissioner Jeski and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Potter
Clerk

Approved: March 22, 2017