**Minutes of September 8, 2022, REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Huerta called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm
2. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Present: Jim Huerta, Mark Diamond, John Louizos**,** &Margaret Feeney

Staff: Aaron Miller & Leah Kagan

Guest: Janeene Freeman, Ralph Blessing, & Tommy Jackson

1. **Reading and Acceptance of Minutes**
   1. Approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting held on August 11, 2022
2. **Ralph Blessing – Land Use Bureau Chief** 
   1. Mr. Blessing shared an overview of the Triennial City Property list for 2021. Mr. Blessing mentioned that the Board of Finance shared sites in Stamford that are triangulated or up for sale
      1. The Board of Finance has said most properties would cost more to sell than it would keep, so the city should retain most except for Crescent Street
         1. Some parcels the City owns were acquired to build or expand roads but now some of the parcels are left over
      2. Mr. Blessing mentioned that most of the parcels left over are small slivers properties. There is not much city property around that is available for sale, because there are either too small or zoned for something else that wouldn’t allow for significant development
      3. Urban Transitway funds were acquired with federal funds, but the city has to pay back 80% of the cost
   2. Chair Huerta ask Mr. Blessing could the EDC work with him to create a city tour of properties for the commissioners. Mr. Blessing agrees but mentions it would be great to have more specifics
   3. Mr. Louizos mentions he would like to see the tour include the top 10 locations spots that are important to economic development to be the tour stops (town center, end of HP parcel, transportation center)
   4. Mr. Blessing notes he’ll work with the ED Director on identifying 10 properties owned and not owned by the city for the tour
3. **Director’s Report**
   1. Ms. Kagan presented the Director’s Report onboththeARPA Small Business Resiliency Grant and Innovation Corridor
      1. On the Innovation Corridor Grant, Ms. Kagan stated if the City is awarded the $50 million grant, the city would need to raise $200 million. The goal would be to create a global innovation hub and workforce job pipeline, with a focus on tech
      2. Ms. Kagan mentions the Innovation Hub would include an academic hub with one or more university partners in addition to the skills hub, and include partnering with Microsoft, Amazon, and Google in fintech and cyber and with CSCU or UCONN**.** The innovation would include community-based and scholarship opportunities.
      3. The Commissioners asks about taxes and fundraising, and if city will do a private partnership to match
         1. Ms. Kagan says yes, and the city is looking and working with various companies and philanthropists to raise the $200 million
   2. Ms. Kagan mentions that regarding the Small Business/ARPAGrantthat theBOR approved the allocation of $1.5 million in June
      1. The Economic Development department is in the process of reviewing the proposals for the RFP process
         1. There were 6 bidders, and they are in the process of choosing an operator who will distribute the funds. Commissioners request to get information on RFP & 6 bidders was denied.
      2. The Commissioners note they can help with marketing and making businesses aware, and Ms. Kagan notes they hope to launch the ARPA fund in October
      3. Mr. Louizos mentions releasing a press release, and Ms. Kagan mentions wanting to market the ARPA Grant broadly with help from Mayor’s Office and BOR

1. **Chairperson’s Report**
   1. 35 Crescent St/Glenbrook Community Center
      1. Chair Huerta mentions that the Legislative and Rules Committee and then the full Board of Reps will be holding hearings on the proposed sale and that he is in favor of the sale.
   2. Economic Development additional support staff.
      1. Chair Huerta notes he is happy that a new position is opening or will be opening soon that will see the Economic Development department add an additional staff person and he thinks that will be a great help
   3. Affordable Housing Study/Information
      1. Chair Huerta mentions he would appreciate it if any Affordable Housing information including any housing studies and proposals could be sent to the committee
      2. Mr. Blessing notes that he will forward any information he has to commission
2. **Old Business**
   1. Commission as a Member of the Mayor’s Business Roundtable
      1. Ms. Kagan mentions the Economic Development Department and Mayor’s Office are aiming to have meeting in late October or early November and will forward more details to the committee when they become available
   2. Collaboration items shared by Economic Development Director and Economic Development Commission.
      1. Chair Huerta mentions that he would like to see continued improved communication between EDC and EDO
   3. ARPA $1.5 million status – including evaluation process and committee charged with the approvals.
      1. See Director’s report
   4. Stamford Transportation Center updates
      1. Mr. Louizos notes he would like to see the City and EDC have a greater say on improvements happening to the STC. Even if the state owns the land, it’s the residents of Stamford who use it daily
   5. Economic Development Director reporting to Commission
   6. Flow of information regarding Stamford’s Economic Development updates to Commission
      1. Chair Huerta mentions he wants stronger communication and doesn’t want the commission to be surprised by any news or other events happening.
3. **New Business**
   1. Next Meeting – Mark motions and Margaret seconds and commission is unanimous
   2. Discussion – Next Meeting Agenda
   3. Confirmation – Next Regular Meeting **(*Thurs., October 13, 2022 at 4pm*)**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Adjournment** 
   1. Chair Huerta asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Diamond makes a motion, which is seconded by Ms. Feeney. The motion passed unanimously. With no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 4:50 pm.