

**David R. Martin**  
Mayor

**Thomas Madden, AICP**  
Director of Economic  
Development



**CITY OF STAMFORD**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMISSION**  
**Jonathan Winkel**  
Chairman

**Stephen Fischer**  
Vice Chairman

**James Huerta**  
Secretary

**Mark Diamond ESQ.**  
Member

**Margaret Feeney**  
Member

**Stamford Government Center-Stamford, Connecticut**  
**Regular Meeting- Thursday, December 10, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the City of Stamford Economic Development Commission (EDC) Office of Economic Development (OED) was held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 4:04pm via Zoom Meeting on the 9th floor in the Urban Redevelopment Commission Conference Room, Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut.

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Winkel called the meeting to order at 4:04pm. He also introduced and welcomed Margaret Feeney, as a new member of the Commission.

**2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Jonathan Winkel, Stephen Fischer, James Huerta, Mark Diamond and Margaret Feeney

Staff: Thomas Madden-Director Economic Development, John Varamo-Economic Development Analyst, Tommie Jackson, Assistant Director-URC, and Theresa Bowen, Office Manager-URC

Guest(s): Michael Pollard

**3. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes: From Regular Meeting held on November 12, 2020**

Chairman Winkel asked for reading of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on November 12, 2020. He then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion was moved by Commissioner Diamond and second by Commissioner Huerta. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion was passed unanimously.

**4. Chairperson Report**

Chairman Winkel there have been no new requests or opinions received. However, the pending opinions will be covered under Old Business. He stated that communications have been sent out in the past, that this service of reviewing Economic Development opinions to other boards and organizations is available. Possible, next steps would be to invite other organizations to the monthly meetings. Mr. Madden suggested to start with the Stamford Partnership, Mill River

and Stamford Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Winkel stated that would be a great queue for the first quarter. Dr. Jackson also suggested that others in the business community be invited to speak on particular topics/subjects such as Vaccinations. Staff will discuss possible potential speakers.

#### **5. Director's Report**

Mr. Madden provided highlights of the Q3 Report which should be posted shortly to the website. He reviewed corporate leases and apartment rental information. He updated the Commissioners on an intern project being done by Mr. John Hicks, on his cultivating a corporate leader list for potential leads. This will be used to send out the first round of cold call folders. He updated the Commissioners on the housing sales and the drop in unemployment. Mr. Madden stated a second Stamford sign similar to the one by UCONN Stamford will be placed at 677 Washington Blvd for visibility on entering and exiting the train station. Mr. Varamo provided an update on the status of the Arts & Culture Commission strategic plan and the Stamford Arts & Culture Grants application process. Lastly, Mr. Madden updated the Commissioners on state and federal government monies to assist small business.

#### **6. Old Business**

- a. Discussion of Meeting Agenda Items  
Chairman Winkel stated this item has been discussed at the last two meetings and the prospect of adding new items to the agenda. Based on previous feedback Commissioner Huerta will submit a draft to the Commissioners to be discussed at the next meeting for final presentation.
- b. Minority Business Engagement by City of Stamford  
Chairman Winkel gave an overview of the request submitted by Dr. Jackson for a written opinion. Mr. Madden stated a preliminary draft was submitted by Dr. Jackson. He stated, it will require further review for feasibility and further discussion is needed with the Mayor. A draft will be submitted for next meeting.

#### **6. New Business**

- a. Approval of 2021 EDC Meeting Calendar  
Chairman Winkel requested a motion to approve the 2021 Regular Meeting Calendar for the Economic Development Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Diamond with second from Commissioner Huerta. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Next Meeting
  - i. Discussion-Next Meeting Agenda
  - ii. Confirmation-Next Regular Meeting (Thurs. Jan 14, 2020 at 4pm)

**7. Public Comment**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

Chairman Winkel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:34pm. A motion was made by Commissioner Diamond with second from Commissioner Feeney. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously. With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,



James "Jim" Huerta,  
Secretary-Economic Development Commission