

JRH

David R. Martin
Mayor

Thomas Madden, AICP
Director of Economic
Development



COMMISSION
Jonathan Winkel
Chairman

Stephen Fischer
Vice Chairman

James Huerta
Secretary

Mark Diamond ESQ.
Member

Margaret Feeney
Member

CITY OF STAMFORD

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Stamford Government Center-Stamford, Connecticut
Regular Meeting- Thursday, February 11, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the City of Stamford Economic Development Commission (EDC) Office of Economic Development (OED) was held on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 4:05pm 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

Vice Chairman Fischer called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

2. Roll Call

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

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

Guests: Michael Pollard

3. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes

a. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting held on January 14, 2021

Vice Chairman Fischer asked for reading of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on January 14, 2021. He then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion was moved by Commissioner Huerta and second by Commissioner Feeney. Motion was passed unanimously with Commissioners present.

b. Approval of minutes from Special Meeting held on January 28, 2021

Vice Chairman Fischer asked for reading of the minutes from the Special Meeting held on January 28, 2021. He then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion was moved by Commissioner Diamond and second by Commissioner Huerta. Motion was passed unanimously with Commissioners present.

4. Stamford Partnerships Presentation

Mr. Madden requested that this item be taken out of order on the agenda.

Vice Chairman Fischer made a motion to go out of order. Motion was passed unanimously with Commissioners present.

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5. Chairperson's Report

Vice Chairman Fischer stated he had no report and no new requests for opinions have been received.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Madden announced that ITT Inc. (a Fortune 1000 company) is moving from Westchester to Stamford and has signed a lease in the South End. Another company has signed a lease for 46,000 sq. feet with potential growth up to 2000 employees over 5 years and Point Pickup Technologies (located at 333 Ludlow Ave.) took a sublease for 17,000 sq. feet with about 200 employees. He also reported that the monthly availability rate for 40 major apartment buildings have an average occupancy rate of about 96%. Out of 8,577 total units, 376 were on the market at the time.

7. Old Business

a. Meeting Agenda Items Draft

Commissioner Huerta stated that he and Chairman Winkel have been discussing this item. Commissioner Huerta made a motion to table this item until Chairman Winkel is available either if he joins this meeting or at the next meeting, with second from Vice Chairman Fischer. Motion was passed unanimously with Commissioners present.

b. Minority Business Engagement by City of Stamford Draft Proposal

The Commissioners discussed that latest version that was revised by Commissioner Feeney and Dr. Jackson. Dr. Jackson reviewed all the revisions. Mr. Pollard provided the Commissioners with an update from the Mayor's office on the status of a staff position for an Equity and Inclusion Officer and guidance from outside consultants on drafting a position.

Chairman Winkel joined at 4:40pm

The Commissioners agreed on the next step in the process would be to present to the Board of Representatives. Mr. Madden stated he would present to the State and Commerce Committee. Chairman Winkel added that a cover sheet is needed. Commissioner Diamond made a motion to adopt the recommendation to be sent to the Mayor's office and the Board of Representatives for their consideration with second from Commissioner Feeney. Chairman Winkel stated that a cover sheet is needed stating this is a draft for their comment and review before a final draft is presented to the Commission for approval. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion was passed unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Next Meeting

i. Discussion-Next Meeting Agenda

The agenda items Stamford Partnership Presentation and

ii. Confirmation-Next Regular Meeting (Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 4pm)

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Adjournment

Chairman Winkel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:47pm. A motion was made by Commissioner Diamond with second from Commissioner Huerta. 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