

JKH

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, June 10, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the City of Stamford Economic Development Commission (EDC) Office of Economic Development (OED) was held on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 4:01pm 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 4:01pm.

2. Roll Call

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

Staff: Thomas Madden-Director Economic Development, John Varamo-Economic Development Analyst, Tommie Jackson, Assistant Director-URC, and Theresa Bowen, Office Manager-URC
Interns: John Hicks, Addie Joseph, Matthew Keller and Matthew Yerushalmi

3. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes

a. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2021

Chairman Winkel asked if the Commissioners have read the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2021. He then asked for a motion to accept these minutes. A motion was moved by Commissioner Diamond with second by Commissioner Fischer. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion was passed unanimously with Commissioners present.

4. Chairperson's Report

Chairman Winkel stated he has received no new requests for opinions nor any direct contact for EDC business. There has been a lot of activity at the office which will be discussed by Director's report.

Commissioner Feeney joined the meeting.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Madden announced that Digital Currency Group (DCG) will be relocating from New York to Stamford in Shippan Landing and ITT a Fortune 800 company will be relocating from Westchester to Stamford in Harbor Point. Another major signing will be held next week and an announcement will be made in July or August that will be part of the innovation district and will tie in with the Stamford Technology Incubation Program (TIP) with UCONN. He provided the Commissions with a status of local restaurants, a tally of the recently closed restaurants is being done along with the opening of new restaurants. In terms of the economy, he stated on the recovery side the state is 95% recovered from before Covid levels, within Stamford the service industry including hotels, bars and restaurants are struggling to find applicants which is causing employers to raise their hourly rates to attract workers. Another big project is being worked on in the innovation corridor, is the data science institute.

6. Old Business

a. University Zone Overlay

Mr. Madden provided the Commissioner with highlights from meetings with Land Use and others. Next steps will be to submit to the Planning and Zoning Boards. Commissioner Diamond requested Mr. Madden to send the revised language to the Commissioners.

b. Minority Business Engagement Update

Mr. Madden provided the Commissioners with a status update and upcoming intern research be done as a follow to the McKinsey study. They will be assisting in cataloging and inventory types of contracts to develop a change to current policies.

c. Ordinance governing short term rentals in Stamford update

Mr. Madden stated this being reviewed by Corporation Counsel.

7. New Business

Chairman Winkel shared the President Quinones announcement that he will not be seeking reelection to the Stamford Board of Representatives

Commissioner Huerta inquired about the process of organization outreach to be invited to present to the Board. The Commissioners discussed a process and requested Mr. Madden to send a list of potential groups. Chairman Winkel requested a new agenda item be added after Director's report for Organization Presentation. Commissioner Feeney offered to present Technology Incubation Program (TIP) Digital UCONN at the August Meeting.

a. Next Meeting

i. Discussion-Next Meeting Agenda

ii. Confirmation-Next Regular Meeting (Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 4pm)

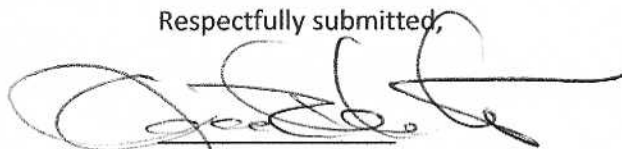
8. Public Comment

None.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Winkel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:23pm. A motion was made by Commissioner Huerta with second from Commissioner Diamond. Chairman Winkel conducted a roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously. With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Huerta', written over a horizontal line.

James "Jim" Huerta,
Secretary-Economic Development Commission