

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – December 19 , 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Town of Montville has lifted the mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022, throughout Town facilities in coordination with our schools. Although the mask mandate has been lifted, Uncas Health strongly recommends that all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, continue to wear masks indoors. Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

1) Call to Order

Chairman Gillette called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

3) Roll Call

Present were Commissioners, Mickey Gillette, Walter Hewitt (by phone), Sheelagh Lapinski, and Meracus Hernandez. Absent were Commissioners Sierra Davis, Thomas McCarthy, and Christopher Napierski. A quorum was present.

Also present was Town Planner Liz Burdick and Asst. Planner Colleen Bezanson. Town Council Liaison Robert Yuchniuk was absent.

4) Alterations to the Agenda -- *None*

5) Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit)

Chairman Gillette asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

6) To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve:

a) The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Lapinski; seconded by Commissioner Hernandez to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2022. Discussion: Asst. Planner Bezanson noted a clerical error concerning Item 11, Remarks from the Public, included twice. The minutes will be numerically adjusted accordingly. **Motion** by Commissioner Lapinski; seconded by Commissioner Hernandez to approve the amendment to the November 21, 2022 minutes. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried. **Original vote:** 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried for November 21, 2022; minutes as amended.

7) Unfinished Business

a) Improve Business Awareness

1. Discussion of business survey results

Asst. Planner Bezanson reported the receipt of one (1) business survey response at the October Commission meeting. Since then, Commissioner Davis has responded to the survey that will be submitted to *Patch* and the *Montville Times*. Town Planner Burdick reported mailing the surveys was time prohibitive for Asst. Planner Bezanson to complete. The Asst. Planner reported on the cost to mail the surveys at \$.44 for a post card and \$.57 for regular mail, or \$100 and \$127.67, respectively for 224 or more businesses. Asst. Planner Bezanson inquired about the administrators for the EDC Facebook page, Commissioners Davis, Hewitt, and Napierski, and how to access it. Commissioner Hewitt responded he needed her email address for the same.

b) Welcome New Businesses

1. Review of Business Report

There were no questions concerning the report. Chairman Gillette welcomed the new Town businesses.

c) Recognition of Businesses

1. Discussion of Presentation of Excellence Award

Commissioner Lapinski reported the verbiage for the Excellence Award will be similar to past awards as her draft was wordy. The Commission discussed other sign companies to obtain a quote for the award. Town Planner Burdick reported Asst. Planner Bezanson will call local sign businesses and report back to the Commission; the sign company in Waterford will be used for the 2022 4th quarter Excellence Award.

2. New Business Introductory Letter

Asst. Planner Bezanson reported Commissioner Davis is working on the introductory letter that will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

8) New Business:

a) Staff Updates

1. Planning and Zoning Commission applications update

Asst. Planner Bezanson summarized the report for Planning and Zoning Commission applications. Town Planner Burdick reported the existing Town marijuana business now has a hybrid license authorizing it to sell for medical and recreational use effective January 10, 2023. The business owner is looking to accommodate overflow parking such as a tent or other means. She also reported that the Town of Winchester has an EDC department head and a Town Planner and spoke of a friend who works in Connecticut with EDCs. Town Planner Burdick spoke to finding funds to have a conduit for a straight line to CT Zoning laws and has contacted a colleague at seCTer concerning the same for discussion in February 2023. Also reported on plans for a residential development across the street. The building is being stripped and there are some things that require resolution.

b) Meeting Dates for 2023

Motion by Commissioner Lapinski; seconded by Commissioner Hernandez to approve the amended 2023 Meeting Dates. Discussion: Asst. Planner Bezanson noted the new dates for January and February 2023. The amended date for the February 2023 from the 20th to the 22nd meeting was missed at the November meeting; Commissioner Davis left early so there was not a quorum present. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

9) Report from Town Council Liaison -- *None*

10) Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit)

Chairman Gillette asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

11) Remarks from the Commissioners and Town Council Liaison.

Chairman Gillette wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

12) Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Lapinski; seconded by Commissioner Hernandez to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.