

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Room 203

1. Call to Order
Chairman Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners present were Mickey Gillette (7:06 p.m.), Heather Harris, Sheelagh Lapinski, Jim Toner, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Commissioner Christopher Napierski was absent. Also present was Town Councilor Rogers (7:06 p.m.). A quorum was present.
4. Alterations to the Agenda -- None
5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit)
Chairman Hewitt asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve:
 - a. The Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 15, 2019.
Motion by Commissioner Toner seconded by Commissioner Lapinski to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2019, as written. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Unfinished Business
 - a. 2019 Small Business Forum Event Planning
Commissioner Toner summarized the Forum program which he sent to the Commission by email. He stated he needed someone with “an artistic flair” to market what information attendees would get by coming to the event. He said the Southeastern CT Chamber of Commerce would co-sponsor the Forum, send out information, and register attendees through contact person, Megan Gilbert. Commissioner Toner then spoke about having a realtor on the program as the Commission discussed at its last meeting. He spoke of a meeting he had with a realtor about attending the Forum and to headhunt potential business to vacant Town properties. Town Councilor Rogers agreed with the marketing aspect but said it would be done without a formal agreement/contract with the Town. Commissioner Toner made clear that no such discussion had or would take place stating the intent was to bring in business for available properties adding that he understood conflict of interest and use of taxpayer money. Chairman Hewitt commented the idea was to raise an issue with the Town Council to invest in Town development. Commissioner Harris asked who someone would go to for business in Town—Town Planner Vlaun and Commissioner Toner who helps with business plans and works with traditional and nontraditional lenders. Licensing and permitting was said to be a State issue. A resource list was discussed and Commissioner Toner agreed to send that information to Chairman Hewitt who would disseminate it to the Commission. Town Councilor Rogers said he would scan/send the building permit for use of the MHS Cafeteria for the Forum. The Commission then

discussed assembling a list of potential businesses not currently in Town. They also spoke of ordering pizza and sodas as refreshments for the Forum.

The Commission then continued discussion from the April meeting about securing advance information on businesses leaving the casino. Commissioner Toner spoke of a potential meeting with a casino executive board member. Commissioners Lapinski and Harris commented on persons they knew or met with concerning casino businesses, respectively. Town Councilor Rogers suggested the Commission concentrate on attracting businesses that would not compete with those at the casino. Commissioner Toner added that the businesses should be ones the Town would support—dry cleaner, car wash, marina, grocery store, and a training school. Commissioner Harris suggested a financial feasibility be done to determine what type of businesses would work or could be supported by the Town. Commissioners Harris and Toner agreed to meet on the same. Town Councilor Rogers added that the businesses would need to be in developed Town areas with available water and sewer.

- b. EDC Website
 - i. Town of Montville – *No report*
 - ii. Facebook – *No report*
 - iii. seCTer – *No report*
 - iv. Blog for EDC (Currently at <http://whewitt.com>) – *No report*

c. New Business Report.

Chairman Hewitt commented on the April Business report that had two (2) new businesses reported. He said he would send letters to them.

8. New Business

- a. Identification and Marketing of short list of Montville real-estate properties for development.

This item was discussed earlier under Agenda Item 7.a.

9. Townspeople and Business Feedback

- a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

The Commission at its last meeting approved a list of Business Recognition Award recipients through February 2020. The Commission agreed to wait to consider other recipients.

10. Report from Town Council Liaison

Town Councilor Rogers reported the Town budget was passed but said there would be a special meeting held due to the reduced Board of Education budget. He also said the mill rate was set and explained how that was done per a question by Chairman Hewitt.

11. Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit)
Chairman Hewitt asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.
12. Remarks from the Commissioners and Town Council Liaison
Chairman Hewitt welcomed Commissioner Harris to the Commission.
13. Adjournment
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville