

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda – December 21, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Town of Montville will be utilizing a virtual FreeConferenceCall service for this meeting.

Please call number below to attend the meeting at:

[1-\(605\) 313-5935](tel:1-605-313-5935)

[PIN # 401237](#)

On March 14, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology.

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via FreeConferenceCall.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerks Office at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least **1 working day in advance** (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Economic Development Commission.

Live audio comments may be made via FreeConferenceCall by calling from your telephone.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Economic Development Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.

1) Call to Order

Chairman Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

3) Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Mickey Gillette, Sheelagh Lapinski, Christopher Napierski, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Absent were Commissioner Heather Harris, Town Planner Marcia Vlaun (due to technical difficulties) and Town Council Liaison Colleen Rix. A quorum was present.

4) Alterations to the Agenda -- *None*

5) Remarks from Marcia Vlaun -- *None*

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

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

7) Desire to recruit Commissioners.

Chairman Hewitt said there had been no success yet with recruiting new commissioners. Commissioner Lapinski asked about the number of vacancies; there are two (2). Commissioner Napierski asked whether former commissioner K. Butzgy had been approached to rejoin. Chairman Hewitt asked to let him know of anyone who had interest in joining.

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

i) The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Lapinski to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2020. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

9) Unfinished Business

a) Montville real-estate properties for development

Commissioner Lapinski said she liked the idea about soliciting stores to the Montville Commons discussed at a previous meeting. She said she visited the Commons and said it did not look like the weekend before Christmas because of the many empty stores. Commissioner Napierski said he visited the Commons and Mohegan Sun and had similar comments. Commissioner Lapinski reported that Foxwoods was closing the Rainmaker and the Fox Tower and said she went there a week ago and no one was there. She also said Mohegan employees were now working four (4) days a week and there were no buses now and then asked again if stores should be solicited to the Commons. Commissioner Gillette said the Commons rental spaces were priced well above economy and there was no success 1 ½ years ago regarding the same. Commissioner Napierski also responded that \$35 per square foot was double the normal price. He also asked about the status of the data center. Chairman Hewitt said Town Planner

Vlaun had reported at a previous meeting there were issues with funding. Commissioner Lapinski asked whether Roc-Ten was torn down to avoid paying taxes.

b) New Business Report

Chairman Hewitt commented on the two (2) new businesses on the report—a sales and a consulting/wedding service. He noted there have consistently been 2-3 businesses. Commissioner Napierski also noted the number of businesses in the worsening economic situation. Chairman Hewitt acknowledged the businesses were basically home-based.

c) Business Survey – Heather

Chairman Hewitt said this item was presently in limbo.

d) Chamber Business After Hours – Heather

Chairman Hewitt said this item was presently in limbo.

e) New Business Report (*This item will be removed from the Agenda as it is a duplicate of Item 9.b.*)

10) New Business

The Commissioner discussed the recently released vaccines for Covid-19, the phases for administering the two doses; the local pharmacies that will be distributing them, the Covid mutation in Great Britain, measures for prevention of the virus and the longevity of it, stimulus relief, and the economic impact for those worried about their next meal.

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

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

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

13) Remarks from the Commissioners and Town Council Liaison -- *None*

14) Townspeople and Business Feedback

a) Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

Chairman Hewitt said this item was on hold.

15) Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Gillette; seconded by Commissioner Lapinski to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers

Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.