

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
310 NORWICH-NEW LONDON TURNPIKE
UNCASVILLE, CT 06382**

**Informational Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
7:00 P.M., Town Hall Room 203**

--The meeting was informational as there was not a quorum present.--

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Mari Jurczyk called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call.

Commissioner Mari Jurczyk, and Al Skulczyck were present. Town Council Liaison Chuck Longton was also present. Commissioners Marjorie Gatheral, Ann Mattson, Jim Toner, Robert and Thorn were absent.

4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (three minute limit).

None

5. Adjustments to the Agenda.

None

6. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting—November 21, 2011

No quorum

7. Communications.

None

8. Guest Speaker—Nancy Gray/Norwich Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Jurczyk introduced Nancy Gray, President and Executive Director of the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce who discussed the evolvement of the branch, its staffing and events, past and future. She said that the chamber is a regional not-for-profit encompassing Montville, Norwich, Preston, Ledyard, and Plainville with a membership of 375 small to medium size businesses. N. Gray spoke about the development of the Norwich Chamber and the route that brought her to the organization. She said that the Chamber has several working sub-committees including economic development. N. Gray also said that her goal is to increase ambassadorship and outreach to all communities to start a dialog to meet with area towns that will be reciprocal. These meet-and-greets will be conducted by the Chamber EDC liaison Les King with a trial one to be held in Salem, CT, in February 2012. She also mentioned another event that would take place at the Hyatt in Norwich on February 17, 2012. Another goal is to get surrounding towns on their email distribution list for notification of upcoming events. Basic membership for the Chamber is \$225 but because of the economy some town have been unable to pay. N. Gray said that Montville is a member of the Chamber and that information is sent to the Mayor's office.

N. Gray commented on ways that towns can become involved or benefit from the Chamber. Initially, she said that the cost for membership is based upon the size of a business and the number of employees. She said the Chamber is an engaging one with some businesses and individuals who are “friends” of the Chamber. N. Gray also said that the branch offers a one-hour free consult for business assistance and that an event was held in December 2010 that reached out to area businesses with representatives from state sources such as DECD present. The Chamber website will be updated in the near future and will include information on member towns. N. Gray also mentioned that the Chamber can help advertise businesses and spoke about sources such as the Community Development Fund in Waterbury that offers low interest loans to high risk startup businesses and the CEDF that is offering \$1,000 to minority businesses in New London.

To conclude her discussion, N. Gray asked how the EDC and the Chamber could meet and work cooperatively together. M. Jurczyk agreed to send her the list of EDC members and the schedule of meetings so that N. Gray could include them on the Chamber mailing list. Commissioner Jurczyk also agreed to speak with Mayor McDaniel about attending Chamber meetings that are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at New London County Mutual on High Street in Norwich. N. Gray handed out her business card and an informational Chamber flyer and said she would speak with Les King about attending the Town EDC meetings.

9. Reports.

1. From the Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel briefly reported on Town activities and then left for another meeting.

2. From the Town Planner.

Town Planner M. Vlaun was absent from the meeting.

3. From the EDC Liaison.

None

10. Unfinished Business.

a. Commission Membership (two vacancies)

No discussion

b. Discussion of EDC Business Forum.

This item was discussed under Item 8.

11. New Business.

None

12. Other Business.

None

13. Remarks (three minute limit).

1. From Individual Commissioners.

None

2. From Town Council Liaison.

None

3. From the Public on EDC topics.

None

16. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mari Jurczyk, Chair
Economic Development Commission

Gloria J. Gathers, Minutes Clerk