

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Room 203

1. Call to Order
Chairman Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners present were Sheelagh Lapinski, Christopher Napierski, Jim Toner, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Town Council Chairman Tom McNally was also present. Commissioners Mickey Gillette and Heather Harris; and Town Councilor Rogers were absent. A quorum was present.
4. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Napierski to add to Items *ii) Rock 10* and *iii) The Leadership Coach* under 8.a, New Business. Voice vote, 4-0; all in favor. Motion carried.
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 May 20, 2019.
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Napierski to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2019, as written. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Unfinished Business
 - a. 2019 Small Business Forum Event Planning
Commissioner Toner summarized the progress of the Forum program. He said the representative from seCTer in addition to Annie Chambers will be Frank Dixon who will reference the program for government funding. He asked about the date for which seCTer should activate responses for attendance at the Forum that it will generate and monitor. Chairman Hewitt asked that it be done immediately so that “save the date” and marketing on Facebook can begin. Commissioner Toner said he met with the realtor and “all the players are set.” Commissioner Hewitt he email addresses from those who provided follow up from last year’s Forum.
 - b. EDC Website
 - i. Town of Montville
Commissioner Napierski reported there had been no activity on the Town website unless the Commission wanted to update its current data. He also suggested that information about the Forum be added to it. Chairman Hewitt proposed adding it one (1) month ahead of the event.

ii. Facebook

Commissioner Napierski said he would add the information about the upcoming Forum to the Facebook page.

iii. seCTer

Commissioner Napierski reported seCTer has been short on resources. Commissioner Toner added their staffing is two (2) people short.

iv. Blog for EDC (Currently at <http://whewitt.com>) – *No report*

Chairman Hewitt asked the Commission to let him know if anything should be added to the blog. He also stated he mentioned credentials with Commissioner Napierski.

c. New Business Report.

Chairman Hewitt stated he sent the Report to the Commission and mentioned the two (2) new businesses for the month of May. Town Council Chairman McNally commented on the busy activity at Donatello's per the full parking area. Commissioner Napierski asked about a business in the Grist Mill Plaza. Commissioner Toner asked Chairman Hewitt if he had received responses to his letters to new businesses. Chairman Hewitt said he sent his business card along with the letters but had yet to receive a response from them.

8. New Business

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

i. Desire to be informed and directed based on Feasibility Study/Development Plan. Commissioner Toner reported that he and Commissioner Harris were to meet about obtaining nonproprietary information concerning businesses leaving the casino and the seCTer study done two years ago. He said Town Councilor Caron was to set up the meeting with the casino. Chairman Hewitt thanked Commissioner Toner for his efforts that he said was worth doing. Commissioner Toner said he would try to set up a meeting with seCTer. Chairman Hewitt questioned whether there was anything the casino needed with the potential to work together.

ii. Rock 10.

The Commission discussed the potential for the property which Town Council Chairman McNally said was being aggressively marketed. T. McNally spoke about tax incentives and sliding scale tax abatements. The viability of the property was also considered given its proximity to gas, water, roads, and railways. Per the discussion about developers for the property, Chairman Hewitt said he would speak with Mayor McDaniel and Town Planner Vlaun.

iii. The Leadership Coach

The leadership coach proposal presented to the Commission was discussed with the developer of the proposal by Commissioner Lapinski who she said had been doing it for

some time. Town Council Chairman McNally proposed doing a presentation for the Town Council with the Commission's endorsement. Commissioner Toner considered whether the proposal would be money well spent. Chairman Hewitt said he would discuss the status of the current strategic plan with Mayor McDaniel and Town Planner Vlaun, specifically the Town's stake in economic development.

9. Townspeople and Business Feedback

a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

The June recipient of the Award, BT Tile, was not at the recent Town Council meeting but Town Councilor Rogers will set up a time to present the plaque. Recipients of the Award were voted upon by the Commission through February 2020.

10. Report from Town Council Liaison

In the absence of Town Councilor Rogers, Town Council Chairman McNally spoke about 13 Town owned properties that will be set up for public hearing that are not currently being used. He also spoke about the \$25,000 budgeted to revamp the Town's web page with the work set to begin July 1. Town Council Chairman McNally said that suggestions for the website can be submitted to the IT Department from the Town website. He also mentioned the farmer's market that had been cancelled this week due to the Montville Carnival and the 2.4 million brought in by back taxes. He said the new budget will begin July 1 and the Town is doing well financially.

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 *None*

13. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Napierski to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville