

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Room 203
This meeting was informational as a quorum was not present.

1. Call to Order
Chairman Hewitt began the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners present were Heather Harris, Jim Toner, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers was also present. Commissioners Mickey Gillette, Sheelagh Lapinski; and Christopher Napierski were absent. A quorum was not present.
4. Alterations to the Agenda – None
Chairman Hewitt said had there been a quorum he would have discussed a domain registration and certification for Montville EDC website. Town Councilor Rogers commented that he spoke with Finance Director Hart who said there are funds in the budget for it and said the website is a good way to dispense information. A count of registered attendees will done on the Monday prior to the Forum on September 24 so that Town Councilor Rogers can obtain refreshments (coffee, water, and cookies).
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: No action taken
 - a. The Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 15, 2019.
7. Unfinished Business
 - a. 2019 Small Business Forum Event Planning
Commissioner Toner spoke of staffing changes at seCTer over the past 3-5 months and its effect on the finalized Forum agenda that he said would remain “as is” as he would be serving as host of the event and would comment accordingly. He said the Commissioners and Town Councilor Rogers needed to register for the event on the Chamber website that would dispense information and monitor registration for the Forum.
 - b. Identification and Marketing of short list of Montville real-estate properties for development.
Chairman Hewitt commented on the packet of potential development properties which he handed out to the Commission at its July meeting and two (2) more foreclosed properties mentioned at the last Town Council meeting. Town Councilor Rogers responded to Commissioner Harris regarding attendance by the Commission at Town Council meetings for presentation of the EDC Business Award. He explained the award has gotten great feedback and Chairman Hewitt said Facebook loves the award that has recipients chosen up to February 2020.

- c. Mohegan Tribe and our request for contact information regarding retention of business vacating the casino.

Commissioner Toner reported there is no follow-up meeting date yet for vacancies or potential businesses seeking the casino as their venue which the Mohegan Tribe agreed to forward to him.

- d. EDC Websites -- Updates

- i. Town of Montville

Chairman Hewitt said he had gotten no feedback regarding his suggestions for the updated Town website concerning content management and management structure. He said the website updates needs to be changed "to drive people to it." Commissioner Toner he was a part of the hiring regarding the website upgrade and said the company involved agreed to do all of the same.

- ii. Facebook

Chairman Hewitt said he has been posting to the site.

- iii. seCTer

Chairman Hewitt said there has been no information on the seCTer website changes.

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

Chairman Hewitt reported he had not been posting to the blog but if anything needs to be posted to let him know of if anyone wants to post he will provide the link.

- e. New Business Report.

Chairman Hewitt said there was only one (1) new business for the month of July and that he would a send a letter. Commissioner Toner commented on the calls he receives from Planning & Zoning for individuals looking to start businesses. Chairman Hewitt reported on a call he received from a potential business owner who he referred to Commissioner Toner.

- f. Business Survey

Commissioner Harris reported she reached out to eight (8) people and said she would send a letter to them and ask them to complete the survey. She asked about a logo for the letter and Town Councilor Rogers suggested she use the heading on the Commission agenda. He also said she could be reimbursed for the postage or bring the letters to the Mayor's office to be sent out. Chairman Hewitt agreed to create an EDC email address for her. Commissioner Toner said he could contact Connie in the Mayor's office for business cards.

8. New Business

- a. Congratulations to Heather Harris on her appointment to represent Montville on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Connecticut Tourism District.

Chairman Hewitt congratulated Commissioner Harris on her 3-year appointment

representing the Town as a board member of the Eastern Connecticut Tourism District.

b. Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS) has developed a certification program to encourage best practices in municipal economic development and land use.

Chairman Hewitt commented on the link he sent to the Commission on its blog regarding the same. He said Mayor McDaniel provided the information that Chairman Hewitt said would be pertinent for the Commission and ultimately get on its mailing list. Commissioner Harris said she would review the information.

9. Townspeople and Business Feedback

a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

This item was discussed under Agenda Item 7b.

10. Report from Town Council Liaison

Town Councilor Rogers spoke about information regarding the data center project and proposed water usage at the facility. The Commission discussed the same.

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

The meeting ended at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville