

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall – Room 203

1. Call to Order
Chairman Hewitt began the meeting at 7:14 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners present were Heather Harris, Sheelagh Lapinski, Christopher Napierski, Jim Toner, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Commissioner Mickey Gillette and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers were absent. 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 July 15, 2019.
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Napierski to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2019. Discussion: none. Vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. The Minutes of the Informational Meeting of August 19, 2019.
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Harris to approve the Informational Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2019. Discussion: none. Vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Unfinished Business
 - a. 2019 Small Business Forum Event Planning Update
Commissioner Toner asked if the Commission had seen *The Day* article on the Forum that Chairman Hewitt said he posted with Mayor McDaniel's comments on the EDC blog and on Facebook. Commissioner Toner reported he expected to receive a count as to who will be attending the event that he would share with Chairman Hewitt. The Commission confirmed the setup of ten (10) tables, finger foods and drinks by Town Council Liaison Rogers, and the time for their arrival, 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Toner's request for a podium was made with the administrative office at the high school and with Town Council Chair McNally. Also discussed was the event agenda, a signup table, and an exit survey for attendees. Chairman Hewitt commented on an email from Town Council Chair McNally concerning a local bank that wanted to be involved. It was agreed a table would be set up for the bank. Security at the high school for the event was discussed by Commissioner Toner with Town Council Liaison Rogers and the Town Council Chair Rogers. Signs with directions at the high school for the event will be done and Chairman

Hewitt will bring the EDC banner. Business cards are needed and will be discussed with Town Council Liaison Rogers as well as M-Baps for distribution.

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

Chairman Hewitt commented on feedback for another Rock 10 or supermarket for the Town. Commissioner Toner said traffic counts for Route 32 would be needed and was data he was unable to obtain but commented on an informal traffic study that he conducted on his own. DOT contacts were considered. Commissioner Harris asked about the directives for development which Commissioner Toner said would include feedback from Mayor McDaniel, Town Planner Vlaun, and Town Council Chair McNally with funding by Planning Zoning of which the EDC is ancillary. Discussion followed by Commissioner Lapinski and the others concerning the potential for a Cracker Barrel or Aldi's. Commissioner Harris said she would search for a Cracker Barrel contact. Chairman Hewitt noted that Aldi's are franchises.

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

Commissioner Toner reported he had made seven (7) calls regarding follow-up from the meeting but had received no responses and said he would make no more calls. He said since Town Council Chair McNally attended the meeting he might want to call.

d. EDC Websites -- Updates

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*

e. New Business Report.

Chairman Hewitt stated a report was not received this month but said the EDC awards were still popular on Facebook. He also said the last business honored was a no-show at the Town Council meeting due to a death in the family.

i. Call from prospective new business.

Chairman Hewitt said this item was on last month's agenda and discussed at that time.

f. Business Survey

Commissioner Harris reported she visited the Town Hall twice looking for help regarding envelopes and postage for the surveys she wanted to mail but no one was in the mail room. She said she was told that metered mail needed to be mailed the same day or the next day. Commissioner Harris purchased envelopes and mailed the surveys and said she had

receipts for the purchases. Commissioner Toner suggested she give the receipts to Chairman Hewitt for reimbursement. Chairman Hewitt agreed to discuss post office returned envelopes with Mayor McDaniel. Commissioner Harris added that the survey returned envelopes would come to the Town Hall per her attention.

8. New Business

a. Heather Harris RE: the Eastern Connecticut Tourism District.

Commissioner Harris reported on what she described as a “worse meeting” that involved infighting, bad feelings, and discussion. She said she was appointed to the Military Advisory Council of the Chamber and a representative of the EDC. Commissioner Harris added there was potential with the Council and also mentioned funds for buses that can be used by towns.

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 email for the same that he received two (2) months ago and that was discussed briefly at the last Commission meeting. He said the program information looked or seemed to have a good approach if anyone desired to go and said he would encourage Mayor McDaniel to take another look at the material.

c. Reimbursement:

- i. Walt: Domain Registration and SSL Certificate for Montville-EDC.org (\$50.16)
- ii. Walt: Postage for new Montville Business welcome and EDC Award notification letters (\$11.00)
- iii. Heather: Postage for Business Survey mailings

Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Harris to have all items (i, ii, and iii) for funds spent and reimbursement given to Chairman Hewitt for approval and subsequent transmittal. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Townspesople and Business Feedback

a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

Commissioner Lapinski proposed a business for recognition in March 2020. A member from the public was present and Chairman Hewitt explained the process and purpose for the EDC award. The business award recipient will be given to Town Council Liaison Rogers.

Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commission Lapinski a business submitted for approval and recognition for March 2020 and given to Chairman Hewitt and will remain anonymous for said time. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Report from Town Council Liaison – *No report*

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 8:21 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville