

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
January 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Gary Grasso called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Gary Grasso, Trustee Tony Schiappa, Bhagwan Sharma, Debbie Hamilton, Ramzi Hassan, Kirsten Jepsen and Sam Odeh

Absent: Leslie Bowman, Michael Simmons, Mark Stangle, Paul Stettin

Also Present: Village Administrator Doug Pollock, Assistant Village Administrator Evan Walter, Communications & Public Relations Coordinator Janet Kowal, and Management Analyst Andrez Beltran

MINUTES:

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Sharma to approve the Minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Ms. Jepsen and approved by a vote of **7-0**.

CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

Mr. Walter reviewed the proposed Business License Ordinance. He stated it is an annual \$100 fee with renewal by May 1 to coincide with the Village fiscal year, and that it applies to all businesses with a physical address in the Village except those that are home based or solely P.O. box. Two significant improvements over the ZCO process will be a reoccupancy inspection by the Fire Department to ensure safety of the business to the community as well as a business survey on renewal. The Mayor has the authority to enforce actions against nuisance businesses for the health and welfare of the Village. Application and payment will be available online and by paper.

Mayor Grasso wanted one amendment to the proposed ordinance under Mayoral powers; he wished it to read "the Mayor and/or his designee" for increased flexibility. He also stated that with the new program he would like to touch base with some businesses every year going forward as part of a business visit program.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Sharma to send to the Village Board the recommendation to adopt the Business License program with the proposed revisions; **SECONDED** by Ms. Hamilton. **APPROVED 7-0.**

CONSIDERATION OF HOTEL/MOTEL BUDGET REVISIONS

Mr. Walter stated that because of the recent change in the law (which is to sunset in 2023), the Village is able to use 25% of the Hotel/Motel tax revenue for infrastructure or economic development whereas previously it was restricted for tourism. The expected revenue this year is \$680,000, giving \$170,000 available to be used. As the Village Board is looking to use those funds for road maintenance, the budget must be reduced proportionally. After review and discussion with the Hotels in Burr Ridge, the marketing budget would be reduced from \$350,000 to \$145,000, with a small increase in the Hotel Grant fund from \$14,000 to \$23,000.

The Committee discussed the effects of it on bringing new businesses into the Village, not just for Hotels but also restaurants. The Committee agreed to look at the ROI data provided by the Village's marketing firm Kivvit to understand the effects.

Mr. Hassan asked if the budget reduction was such a concern, could the Village not raise the Hotel/Motel tax from 4% to 5% (max allowed under law for non-home rule municipalities) to offset that? Mayor Grasso stated that was being considered, as it would match the surrounding rates and, after speaking to the Hotels, it would not affect room rentals.

CONSIDERATION OF A DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY AT 15W776 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD (PORTERHOUSE STEAK AND SEAFOOD)

Mr. Walter stated that Porterhouse Steak and Seafood at 15W776 North Frontage Road closed on January 1, 2020. While there has been no contact to the Village from owners, there has been at least one contact from a potential buyer about a fueling station possibly locating there and whether it would be allowed in that location. Mr. Walter stated that this was a good opportunity for the EDC to look at the development of not just that corner, but also the area of Madison Street adjoining Willowbrook, which is mostly unincorporated.

Mr. Odeh asked to comment as he has 30+ years working with Exxon Mobil placing fueling stations. He stated that the current property was not large enough to house a fueling station, even a small one, due to engineering and safety needs. However, if the surrounding parcels were included, a travel center type fueling station option could be explored as the intangibles currently point towards viability. A traffic study would need to be conducted to get a firmer idea of feasibility, however. Mayor Grasso asked the Committee to think about it, and the entire area, and let the Committee know if they hear anything.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Mr. Sharma wanted to talk about the idea of making the Village more walker friendly, and adding benches along the major walking paths, particularly between 91st street and 79th street. He hoped this might make people walk to and from downtown more. Staff stated they would look into it.

Mayor Grasso asked the Committees opinion about moving the concerts to Thursday nights. The draw of the concerts could help bring people to Village Center on a less busy night, and possibly draw in some business travelers as well. The Committee agreed they think it would be a good idea to try.

Mr. Hassan asked if the Village would consider looking at the density requirements in the Village. Higher density leads to more consumers, which could help the economy. Mayor Grasso stated that it was something the Village is asked all the time. However, the Village Board has been skeptical of adding density in more of the low-density areas. However, if a plan came forward in an appropriate area, the Village would be happy to review it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments on the above agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

Economic Development Committee
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Mayor Grasso asked for a MOTION to adjourn. Trustee Schiappa made the **MOTION**; Ms. Hamilton **SECONDED**. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andres Beltran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andres" and last name "Beltran" clearly distinguishable.

Andrez Beltran
Management Analyst