

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
August 5, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gary Grasso called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the Village Hall.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Mayor Gary Grasso, Trustee Tony Schiappa, Leslie Bowman, Mark Stangle, Debbie Hamilton, Ramzi Hassan, Bhagwan Sharma

Absent: Paul Stettin, Sam Odeh, Michael Simmons and Kirsten Jepsen

Also Present: Village Administrator Doug Pollock, Assistant Village Administrator Evan Walter, Communications & Public Relations Coordinator Janet Kowal, Management Analyst Andres Beltran, Edwards Realty Marketing Director Taylor Blagrave

MINUTES: A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Schiappa to approve the Minutes from the July 1, 2020 meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Mr. Stangle and approved by a vote of 8-0.

DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS LICENSE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Mayor Grasso asked Mr. Walter to give an update on the business license program implementation. Mr. Walter stated that in 2019, the EDC recommended and Board of Trustees approved creation of an annual business license program. This program was set to start in spring 2020 ahead of its May 1 enacting date, but was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic temporarily shutting down many businesses. With most returning to some level of working capacity, Mayor Grasso has directed staff to restart the program, but that it be at no cost to businesses for the current fiscal year. As the Municipal Code sets the fee at \$100, the Village Board must approve any rebate of the fee. However, as part of the CARES Act, all business rebate programs implemented by the Village between March 15 and December 31, 2020 are reimbursable. This means the Village would experience no loss of revenue.

Mayor Grasso stated that being able to implement this program while adding no costs to the Village is a win for everyone. The Economic Development Committee also agreed that it sounded like a great action to take.

DISCUSSION OF LONG TERM VILLAGE CENTER STRATEGY

Mayor Grasso stated that at the last meeting he had asked Mr. Hassan to come back with more specifics on how to transform the Village Center. Mr. Hassan thanked Mayor Grasso and stated that with his presentation he wanted to get input from the Committee so as to have a collaborative vision going forward. He did note that between last month's meeting and this month, three more stores have declared bankruptcy: Jos. A Banks, New York and Company, and Loft.

Mr. Hassan presented an overview of the changes that would be needed to transform the Village Center. Improved signage along the Interstate, County Line Road, and Burr Ridge Parkway would help draw attention and people to the Center while improved wayfinding signage would help with finding parking and stores. In relation to parking, having a parking spots available sign, valet

parking for the Center in general, as well as mobile app parking services would improve the experience.

Mr. Hassan stated that activating the outdoor areas is another center of focus. Adding amenities for families and recreation in the Village Green as well as outdoor dining options and water features will help draw people to the Center and have them stay there longer. Finally, adding flexibility and agility to uses in the Center as well as making changes would help make it more viable.

Mayor Grasso asked the Committee if there were any comments on the presentation. The Committee was overall supportive. Ms. Bowman noted that along with the issues presented, logistical issues such as loading docks and truck access would also have to be looked at. Mr. Hassan stated that it was definitely something they were looking into as well down the road.

Mayor Grasso asked Mr. Hassan what other help the Village could provide. Mr. Hassan stated that the assistance in helping him navigate the Village processes was appreciated, but also stated that the Business District idea would be a large help not only to him but to help bring a cohesive feeling to the entire downtown once the TCF parcel starts development. The ability to cost-share with the Village would allow him to tackle bigger projects faster.

Mayor Grasso directed staff to put a report together for the next EDC meeting to start the discussion on the Business District.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

No other considerations were brought forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Schiappa made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting to September 2, 2020 at 5pm; **SECONDED** by Mr. Hassan. **APPROVED 8-0**. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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

Andrez Beltran
Management Analyst