

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
June 2, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gary Grasso called the meeting to order at 5:03. p.m. The meeting was held in person and on Zoom at the Village Hall.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Mayor Gary Grasso, Trustee Tony Schiappa, Debbie Hamilton, Bhagwan Sharma, and Michael Simmons. Sam Odeh participated digitally by Zoom.

Absent: Mark Stangle, Kirsten Jepsen, Ramzi Hassan, and Paul Stettin

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

MINUTES: A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Simmons to approve the Minutes from the May 5, 2021 meeting. The **MOTION** was seconded by Mr. Sharma and approved by a vote of 6-0.

CONSIDERATION OF DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT PLAN

Mayor Grasso asked if there was any objection to discussing the two items as they are related. Seeing none, he asked Mr. Beltran the results of his research into the local downtowns' tax rates. Mr. Beltran stated that Burr Ridge's tax rate was comparable to neighboring downtowns, especially when taking in the difference in restaurant/place of eating tax. Even with increased sales tax, it would be comparable for the Cook County municipalities. He also stated that the Business District Plan was updated to reflect a 1% sales tax, raising the Business District to \$50 million.

Mayor Grasso asked the Committee if it would drive down competitiveness of the local retail and restaurants. Mr. Simmons commented that he did not think anyone would notice. On a \$100 bill it would be only be another \$1, and those who come to Burr Ridge come for quality. Mr. Sharma agreed, and stated that there will be opposition regardless of the increase. Ms. Hamilton said that it would help values in the community because it will become more attractive to residents and businesses.

Mayor Grasso asked Mr. Walter what benefits it would have for the Village from an operational standpoint. Mr. Walter stated that the Business District would generate funds that are not competing for other priorities in the budget. Overall, those places with the best downtowns investment see higher property values. People want to live in those places. Additionally, the residents of Burr Ridge want a downtown that reflects its character, and it needs more investment to do that. Besides having funds for improvements, the Business District allows use of incentives that the Village otherwise would not be able to do.

Mr. Sharma asked for the breakdown of the numbers where the funds would go. Mr. Walter stated that those were in the packet, but most goes for infrastructure improvements and business incentives.

Mr. Odeh agreed with Mr. Walter that it was an investment. He also asked what the breakdown of customers in the downtown was between residents versus non-residents. Mr. Walter said it was difficult to track due to Burr Ridge not having its own zip code. Looking at geofencing data, most of Burr Ridge residents make frequent trips into the downtown; however, the majority of downtown visitors are not Burr Ridge residents.

Mayor Grasso stated capturing revenue from outside customers is always good for the Village. He asked if there was further discussion. Seeing none, he asked if there was a motion.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Simmons to recommend to the Village Board to adopt a Business District in the downtown with a 1% sales and hotel tax. **SECONDED** by Mr. Sharma. **Unanimously approved.**

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There were no other considerations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sharma made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting to July 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm, **SECONDED** by Mr. Simmons. **APPROVED 6-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

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