

Minutes

Economic Development Committee (Joint meeting with the Common Council)

Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 – 4:30 pm – New London City Council Chambers & via Zoom

Members present: Chairman Morack, Bishop, Kopitzke, Dorsey, Faucher, Wolf, Zaug, Lathrop, Thompson (via zoom).

Absent: Johnson, Asman, Pinch

Others present: Mayor Mark Herter, City Administrator Chad Hoerth, Bob Besaw, Tom O'Connell, Lori Dean (via zoom, left due to technical difficulties at 4:50pm), Mike Barrington, Jacqui Miller with SC Swiderski LLC (via Zoom), Madeline Check with SC Swiderski LLC (via Zoom), Nathanael Popp with SC Swiderski LLC (via Zoom), Kenneth Bentzler, Jamie Walbruck, Tim Roberts

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morack at 4:30pm. Kopitzke/Zaug to approve the agenda. Carried by all.
2. The December 15th, 2020 minutes were approved, motion by Faucher/Dorsey. Carried by all.

The Common Council at this time came into session for a joint committee/council meeting.

3. The Committee/Council briefly reviewed the progress from the last meeting regarding the two developer proposals for the downtown riverfront property. Administrator Hoerth presented a list of questions that the developers answered with the purpose of providing the committee members more details on their developer proposals. The committee asked a few follow up questions to the SC Swiderski team and discussed some details of each proposal. Thompson expressed a different perspective in that he felt the city should wait as he would like to see something with more of a public focused venue built on the site rather than private multifamily housing. Further discussion took place whether to proceed with multifamily housing and with one of the presented developer proposals. Zaug presented his opinion that the Retzlaff proposal was more attractive and wanted to work with a local developer who has multifamily housing units already established in New London.

Zaug moved to recommend that the city work with developer Randy Retzlaff to further define site plans and negotiate a developer's agreement for the downtown river front project; the motion failed due to the lack of a second by a committee member.

Dorsey moved, seconded by Bishop to recommend that the city work with developer firm SC Swiderski LLC to further define site plans and negotiate a developer's agreement for the downtown river front project. Motion passed 10 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention. Zaug and O'Connell voting no, Thompson voting abstention.

4. Kopitzke provided a local business update report:
 - Wolf River Lawyers have relocated to 213 W North Water Street, which was formally Earl Luaders law firm and Mr. Luaders will be joining the Wolf River Lawyers firm.

- Bult's Bakery was purchased and the new owners have renamed it as the "Family Bake Shop"
 - A new business called the "Ultimate Sports Complex" is moving into the old Elevate Archery building at 865 Surprise Ending Rd. The new business will offer wrestling, cross fit and training for other competitive sports.
 - Cornerstone Insurance Agency is relocating to 421 S. Pearl Street.
 - The Grand Cinema Theater is up for sale, the current asking price is \$575,000.
 - The former Huntington Bank at 403 W North Water Street has been purchased by Living Waters Assembly of God and will be a new worship center.
 - Malliet Travel has relocated to 106 W North Water Street.
 - The owners of Hair and Company at 511 S. Pearl Street are retiring and closing.
 - Jolly Rogers Pizzeria at 220 W North Water Street is working on some exterior improvements to their building.
5. The committee potential reviewed speakers and agenda items for future meetings.
 6. There was no public comment.
 7. The next Committee meeting will be scheduled for February 23rd, 2021 at 4:30pm.
 8. Kopitzke /Dorsey moved to adjourn at 5:15 pm. Carried by all.

Chad Hoerth
City Administrator