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5 **Economic Development Commission**
6 **Special Meeting Minutes**
7 **June 5, 2018**
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9 **Present:** Joe Mirra, Chair
10 Patricia Cymbala, Commissioner
11 Mark Gingras, Commissioner
12 Rosemarie Preneta, Commissioner
13 Rob Fritz, Alternate/Voting Member
14 Russ Mills, Alternate /Voting Member
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16 **Absent:** Jim Wolfe, Vice-Chair
17 Hank Baum, Commissioner
18 Gary Fappiano, Commissioner
19 Ed Zavaski, Alternate
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21 **Others Present:** Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist
22 Lynn Wolff, Secretary
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25 Chair Joe Mirra called the special meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:32 p.m.
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27 1. **Discussion and Possible Action on Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 7, 2018** – Mark Gingras made a
28 motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Rosemarie Preneta seconded the motion. By a vote of 5
29 yeases and 1 abstention (Russ Mills), the motion carried.
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31 2. **Review of Monthly Expenditure Report** – No comments on the April report.
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33 3. **Committee Reports**

34 • **Marketing –**

- 35 ➤ **Update on meeting discussion** – Mark Gingras reported the Committee met on May 29. The
36 Committee discussed the small balance left in promotional funds within the current year budget.

37 Regarding the public outreach strategies, the Committee felt the tri-fold brochure was very
38 well received by the public. Commissioners agreed, saying residents have approached them as a
39 result of the brochure. Tim Ryan added that the office has also gotten several calls with
40 suggestions about businesses the residents would like to see in Town. Mark said the Committee
41 is also thinking ahead and discussing how to attract IT, technical, pharmaceutical and medical
42 industries to the Town.

43 The Committee discussed billboard lighting options. With the help of Patricia Cymbala and
44 Rob Fritz, the Committee hopes to soon have a draft RFP for the EDC's review before going out
45 to bid.

46 ➤ **Next meeting:** June 22, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

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48 • **P&Z Liaison –**

49 ➤ **Update on Committee activities** – Patricia said the Committee attended the PZC workshop on
50 the Town Center on May 30. Joe Mirra and the Committee think the revised boundary map and
51 zoning regulations are close to being finalized. At the June 11 PZC meeting, there should be an
52 agenda item to set a public hearing regarding the Town Center. However, if other items on the
53 agenda make the meeting go too long, the PZC might wait to set the public hearing date until their
54 July meeting. *Staff was asked to keep the Committee informed about the PZC agenda.* The
55 Committee plans to attend the June 11 meeting.

56 ➤ **Next meeting** – June 8 at 8 a.m. at HUBCAP.

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58 • **Retention/Incentives –**

59 ➤ **Update on Committee activities** – Rosemarie Preneta said the R/I Committee met on May 31.
60 R/I recapped the company visits in May and agreed that these visits have benefits to all. These
61 visits have been going on since 1993 and the Committee is asking for suggestions about which
62 companies should be visited next. Joe Mirra wondered if there is value in visiting service
63 companies next. Mark Gingras suggested visiting Wallingford IT or medical companies. Joe
64 Mirra thought the kidney dialysis company across from the pool might be an interesting place to
65 visit. Tim Ryan suggested visiting the company that offers home infusion services that opened on
66 North Plains Industrial Road.

67 The Committee discussed an application for a Real Property Tax Incentive Program that did
68 not qualify under the minimum property improvement threshold; comments from the Assessor's
69 Office will be forwarded to the applicant along with the Commission's regrets.

70 Rosemarie said the Committee also discussed the May 31 event where Wallingford will be
71 proclaimed a STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) Community. Joe Mirra said
72 the BOE has developed a new way of teaching students to get involved in these subjects; by
73 doing so, it makes for a better foundation for future work forces. For example, this summer a
74 scavenger hunt will be offered--research while having fun. Patricia Cymbala said the fact that we
75 are a STEM Community should be marketed. Tim Ryan said that many of the Town's largest
76 manufacturers attended the May 31 event; the ceremony reinforced that Wallingford is working to
77 help create a work force for their companies. Rosemarie said that Wallingford's CNA (Certified
78 Nursing Accreditation) program is attracting a lot of students; at a recent ceremony, over 30

79 graduating students will be going into college nursing programs. Joe reminded the EDC that the
80 school system is also working on a manufacturing program.

81 ➤ **Next meeting** – None scheduled.

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83 **4. Chair's remarks** – Joe Mirra asked EDC members to let him know if they are able to volunteer to be a judge
84 in the BOE's Panther Cage (modeled after the TV show *Shark Tank*). There are two events scheduled: one
85 judge is needed on June 7 (Moran at 6:30) and three judges are needed on June 14 (HUBCAP at 6:30).
86 Rosemarie Preneta volunteered to be a judge on June 7 and June 14. Tim Ryan asked Joe to talk to the
87 organizers of these events and ask them to reach out for volunteers sooner—calendars fill up quickly and
88 asking for volunteers a week or two before an event is short notice.

89 Members were reminded about the open house at Elite Construction on June 7. Joe Mirra, Rosemarie
90 Preneta and Tim Ryan plan to attend

91

92 **5. Staff reports/regional matters** –Tim Ryan reviewed items from the May monthly report sent out with the
93 agenda. Tim told the EDC that the Town won the Bristol-Myers/Calare lawsuit concerning the Town's right to
94 change the allowed uses in the IX and I-5 zones; the EDC was very pleased.

95 Philips Respironics is starting a 2-year phase-out; Hobson Motzer is interested in interviewing some of
96 the employees who are laid off by Philips. Joe Mirra said Workforce Alliance could help find employment for
97 displaced workers.

98 Tim said Edible Arrangements made changes at its Wallingford call center and now use a more-
99 automated system, which is less expensive. Subway and Edible are two of the largest franchise businesses
100 and are located in CT. Edible talked with State officials about attracting franchise businesses to CT so they
101 can feed off each other. Edible is frustrated with their struggles to attract top tech talent to CT. There is
102 cause for concern, especially since Edible has opened a second world headquarters in Atlanta, GA.

103 Tim, Joe Mirra, Liz Landow and Sal Menzo attended an awards ceremony in Danbury for the Vibrant
104 Main Street Award given to HUBCAP.

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106 **6. Dates to Remember** – The EDC reviewed upcoming events.

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108 **7. Community Involvement** – No comments.

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110 **There being no further business, Mark Gingras made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.;**

111 **Patricia Cymbala seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

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Sincerely,

Lynn M. Wolff, Secretary