



Record of Proceedings of Meeting of the  
**City Council's Economic Development Committee**

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**APPROVED**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

City Administrator Steve Cross explained the process of voting for the election of a Committee Chair. He explained that the first named Council member, per City Code, will call the meeting to order, ask for a roll call of members, and will conduct the nomination and election process of the new Committee chair. Therefore, Council Member Brost, as the first named Council member, called the meeting to order.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Committee Chair Ottenberg  
Council Member Brost  
Council Member Bartoni  
Council Member Dodwell  
Council Member Garritano  
Council Member Hopper  
Council Member Jakcsy  
Council Member McCutchen

Staff Members in Attendance:

City Administrator Steve Cross  
Meeting Recorder Michelle Scherer

**II. Approval of Minutes – April 26, 2022 Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2022 were submitted for approval. Council Member Bartoni motioned for approval, and Council Member Garritano seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All voted aye and Chair Ottenberg declared the motion passed.

**III. Public Comment(s)**

Mr. Tony Bosworth spoke for his company who owns several lots in Town Center. He invited the committee to put forth ideas about what type of business should occupy those lots. Drive throughs tend to be the most prevalent interest, and when economic analysis was done, it was found that restaurants and medical establishments are missing in the area. They have had difficulty finding cohesive uses for a multitenant building. They own the most frontage on Eatherton Road and would like to work with the City with these developments.

**IV. Discussion Item(s)**

**Ready for Action**

**A. B&B Theater Movie Festival Proposal**

Council Member McCutcheon moved that the proposal be permanently postponed. Council Member Garritano seconded the motion, also stating that he spoke with the movie theater owner, who stated that they are focusing on hiring. There was discussion about the motion and how it relates to goals of the Economic Development Committee that have yet to be discussed. Council Member Bartoni commented that the motion is out of procedure. Council Member Brost commented that postponing seems good for now, it can always be brought back to the meeting. Council Member Hopper felt that postponing made sense, but not indefinitely.

MOTION: Delay discussion on this until September. All voted in favor, except Bartoni who voted against the motion on principal.

**B. Discussion of Goals for the Economic Development Committee**

1. The committee opted to skip to the For Information portion of the agenda prior to discussing goals.
2. The original purposes and intentions of the committee were discussed.
3. Council Member Brost mentioned that the internet improvements will have a large impact on business operations in Wildwood and it will be an upcoming solution for improved developments.
4. Resident surveys, Wildwood business surveys, and diversifying Town Center were part of the discussion.
5. Chair Ottenburg recommended the group study the Four Points in the Master Plan, as guideposts for the Economic Development Committee, during the summer recess.
6. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

**C. Discussion of dates, times, and locations of future EDC Meetings**

1. The group discussed the next meeting date and possible alternatives.
2. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

**V. For Information**

**A. Northpoint Development**

City Administrator Cross provided an update of progress. Planning has been working with Northpoint to submit a development plan. The Mayor has asked to set up a negotiating session to open discussion regarding financial information such as abatement of taxes. Cross stated that once more details are fleshed out, a meeting could be arranged with the Economic Development Committee.

**B. Update on Business Changes in Wildwood**

City Administrator Cross updated the group on the following businesses:

1. Micro Meadows had a ribbon cutting ceremony on last Thursday and they are open.
2. Lucky Dog Central on Manchester Rd. has a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 3rd. They are working on adding a café.
3. A whisky and cigar Bar would like to rent the previous Pure By Jen space, and the proposed neighbors have expressed issues about smoke. The owners of this business have a high-end smoke eater.
4. The City was approached by a home-based business called Blissful Candles who is looking for a potential store space.
5. Old Imagines could be a future bakery and retail space.
6. Exercise Coach is looking at an early June opening.
7. A broker based in New York has interest the old Jack in the Box property.
8. Council Member Garritano heard that the owner of Yen Ching, is retiring and closing the business. He also stated that Electro Savings is closing. Steve Cross has said that a finance business would like a store front in Wildwood and he has directed them to Electro Savings, the old PNC and one other business.

**C. Status of Open Economic Development Position**

City Administrator Cross has hired Thomas Lee starting on the 14th of June, coming from a high-end digital marketing firm.

**D. Not Ready for Action as updated by City Administrator Steve Cross**

1. City Business Listserv Review: a list of 270 businesses in Wildwood, needs updating on the City's website.
2. Potential City to Business Newsletter: this has been on the Agenda for quite some time. Should be a discussion item for this committee.
3. Economic Development Guide Update: Thomas Lee will be involved in this. The guide is 6 years old and was developed by an outside consultant.

**VII. Next Meeting Date is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm**

The group agreed to meet in person and have hybrid meetings. They agreed to use the summer to study city provided resources for the committee, and to meet in August.

**VIII. Adjournment**

A motion for adjournment was made by Council Member Hopper and seconded by Council Member Dodwell. All voted in favor. Chair Ottenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.