

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES: July 12, 1993

PRESENT

S. Shapiro, Chair
E. Pattavina
G. Souto
N. Conaway-Raczka

ABSENT

W. Corvo

ALSO PRESENT

M. Levin
J. Milardo
D. Gervais
Mayor S. Gionfriddo
W. Kuehn
L. Ozga
C. Stannard, Press
M. Daly, Courant
S. Libby
E. Roberts

Chairman S. Shapiro called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room B-20 of the Municipal Building.

Chairman Shapiro opened the public session at 7:01 p.m.

S. Libby questioned the status of J. Belair's final report. S. Shapiro stated it would be completed soon. W. Kuehn mentioned it is done and he will be handing it out to the Committee later in the meeting.

D. Gervais, Chairman, Central Business Bureau (CBB) stated that the CBB supports the idea and concept of a Downtown Manager. The only changes the CBB would like made to the job description are as follows:

- . The person should have experience as opposed to "on the job training"
- . Put the position "outside of City Hall" as much as possible
- . From the beginning , involve the people who will have to pay the tax to support a special taxing district.

Mayor S. Gionfriddo reported that he held meetings in the downtown and he agrees with the changes mentioned by D. Gervais. Furthermore, the Mayor stated the person will be located outside of City Hall and an Advisory Committee will be formed prior to the holding of interviews.

N. Conaway-Raczka submitted the idea of providing a grant to the CBB which would enable that group to hire and supervise the downtown manager.

Mayor S. Gionfriddo stated that the CBB will have jurisdiction over this person along with the Council/Mayor during the 1st year.

Mayor S. Gionfriddo and J. Milardo left at 7:14 p.m.

D. Gervais said she would prefer if the person were physically removed from City Hall -- and in a managerial sense the CBB will support whatever will make the program work best.

S. Shapiro mentioned that the main function of this person will be to form a Special Taxing District. S. Shapiro added that the funding concept is to fund the 100% of the position the 1st year; 50% the 2nd & 3rd; 25% the 4th; and 0, the 5th.

V. Amato mentioned that he helped start a Special Taxing District in New Britain and if the Middletown district cannot be established the first year, it probably isn't worth continuing beyond that.

V. Amato added if the position is based in/under the City from the beginning it will be hard to remove it.

N. Conaway-Raczka stated that she spoke to Larry McHugh and he agreed the hiring authority should be outside of the City.

E. Roberts mentioned he is on record as opposing the Downtown Manager's position -- he considers it to be a misuse of public funds. E. Roberts stated it's too bad the district wasn't formed first.

S. Shapiro stated that all communities are judged by their school systems and downtowns and that is why we should have full control.

M. Levine said his #1 concern is that the CBB be involved in the interviewing process. Chairman Shapiro closed the public hearing at 7:48 p.m.

Upon a motion by E. Pattavina, seconded by G. Souto, the Agency voted unanimously to recommend to the Common Council that the Downtown Manager's job description be approved by the Common Council, amended as follows:

. Amendment on page 2: under "Supervised By" add.... Municipal Development Director with input of a Downtown District Bureau;

. Page 3 Delete: "ability to learn", and, change last sentence to read: "Ability to use computers for database management and budget preparation and, wordprocessing experience is required".

REINVEST Program

Upon a motion by N. Conaway-Raczka, seconded by G. Souto, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the REINVEST Guidelines change to extend the 30 day period to 90 days as suggested in the memo from L. Ozga dated July 2, 1993.

Tax Abatement Policy

S. Shapiro asked that the Resolution be tabled for discussion at the next meeting. Upon a motion by N. Conaway-Raczka, seconded by G. Souto, the Committee voted unanimously to table the tax abatement policy resolution until the next meeting.

Upon a motion by E. Pattavina, seconded by G. Souto, the Agency voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Linda A. Ozga

LAO/lmk

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