



Meeting of the
Economic Development Committee
January 18, 2018
6:30 pm

Members Present

Denton Burnell (CC)
Carrie Hawkins Charlton
Mark Ladley
Steve Malagari
Bruce Schwartz
Richard Strahm
Jason Van Dame

Also Present

John Ernst, Borough Manager
Garry Herbert, Mayor

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Strahm made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16 meeting, Mr. Schwartz seconded and the committee voted 7:0 to approve; Mr. Strahm made a motion to approve the November 20 minutes with one amendment of correcting the date, Mr. Burnell seconded and the committee voted 7:0 to approve.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS:

New Businesses

Mr. Van Dame shared the following businesses who received permits in the months of November and December:

- Advocate Pharmacy, 535 S. Broad Street (Pharmacy)
- Iron Athlete, 646 E. Main Street (Gym)
- Motorcar Makeovers Lansdale, 701 W. Main Street (Automotive Sales & Repair)
- Synergy Homecare, 14 E. Sixth Street (Office)
- Round Guys Brewing Co., 408 W. Main Street Ste B (Restaurant)
- Backyard Beans Coffee Co., 408 W. Main Street Ste A (Café)
- Handcrafted Canine LLC, 30 W. Hancock Street Front (Dog Grooming)



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Business of the Month

Mr. Strahm will present the January BOM to Minuteman Press of Lansdale. February's recipient will be named by Mr. Malagari and Mr. Ladley will be identifying March's recipient.

BOROUGH EVENTS / DISCOVER LANSDALE EVENTS

- Comprehensive Plan Open House, Saturday, January 27 9:30am
- *Discover Lansdale Volunteer Fair*, Monday, March 12, 6:30 pm

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION UPDATE

The Police Civics 101 was a success and we're looking forward to the new departments for 2018 (Parks & Recreation, Code Enforcement and Public Works).

OLD BUSINES

Economic Incentive Update

Utility Engineers have reviewed our current incentive plan and have made recommendations for two lower thresholds:

1. Investments of \$50,000 plus the equivalent of five full time employees
 - a. 25% of development fees; 5% electric rate reduction for two years
2. Investment of \$250,000 plus the equivalent of five full time employees
 - a. 25% development fees; 5% electric rate reduction for three years

The committee discussed whether there are businesses currently that qualify for these thresholds, can it be retroactive, does property purchase count toward investment total, can Zoning Hearing Board fees be reimbursed, are contracted employees considered "full time" and what is the cost to the Borough to make these reductions. The intent of these lower thresholds is to give more businesses the opportunity to qualify. The anticipated timeline for these incentives is to put them before Council in February and have the Ordinance in place for April 2014.

Façade Improvement Grants

The smaller group has met and we are looking to put the program out starting in March/April as the weather begins to warm and construction projects begin. There was one change to the guidelines with recipients having six months to complete their project but they may request a three month extension. The projects will be on a first come, first serve basis and the EDC will have final approval of projects so that no projects will be held up waiting for Council approval. All approved projects will be reported to Council through the EDC report at the Work Session meeting.



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NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Revision

As the Economic Development Committee membership is dwindling, there is need to review the Ordinance to incorporate the Communication Commission into the EDC. In order to do this, the EDC ordinance would be revised and the Communication Commission ordinance would need to be removed. Draft versions of the EDC Ordinance will be distributed to the committee for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Herbert announced that he will hold office hours at Borough Hall on Tuesdays from 9am – 5pm and on Saturdays from 9am – 12pm.

****The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Monday, Monday, March 19, 2018****