



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, March 12, 2018
Location: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room
Start Time: 4:04 PM
End Time: 5:40 PM

I. FLAG SALUTE, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Ablaza called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Alternate Commissioner Reddy was seated.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ricardo Ablaza, Chair
Warren Wettenstein, Vice-Chair
Anna Wang, Commissioner
Minh Nguyen, Commissioner
Raghu Reddy, Alternate Commissioner
Jeffrey Chen, Commissioner
Donald Peoples, Commissioner (4:07 PM)
Charlene Tsao, Commissioner (4:09 PM)
Dhaval Brahmbhatt, Commissioner (4:48 PM)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lynne Rice, Commissioner (Excused)
Anthony Phan, Councilmember (Excused)

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Edesa Bitbadal, Economic Development Director
Daniel Degu, Economic Development Specialist
Noa Kornbluh, Economic Development Specialist
Zhenzhen Jiang, Economic Development Intern

II. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda, as amended.

Motion/Second: Wettenstein/Chen

Motion carried by a vote of:	Ayes:	6
	Noes:	0
	Absent:	Peoples, Tsao, Brahmbhatt, Rice
	Abstain:	0

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 13, 2017

Motion: to approve the minute

Motion/Second: Chen/Wang

Motion carried by a vote of:	Ayes:	6
	Noes:	0
	Absent:	Peoples, Tsao, Brahmbhatt, Rice
	Abstain:	0

B. January 8, 2018

Motion: to approve the minute

Motion/Second: Wettenstein/Wang

Motion carried by a vote of:	Ayes:	6
	Noes:	0
	Absent:	Tsao, Brahmhatt, Rice
	Abstain:	Chen

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Receive Update on Wage Theft

Economic Development Director Edesa Bitbadal notified the Commission that the City Council adopted the Wage Theft Ordinance and explained what the new ordinance entails. She explained the roles of Economic Development Department and other City Departments in enforcing the new ordinance, and the process involving revocation of business licenses. She also informed the Commission that the County of Santa Clara is seeking to enforcement wage theft laws through the food health permit the County issues. The pilot program that County of Santa Clara should include both Sunnyvale and Milpitas. Commissioner Chen asked why other cities would not want to enforcement wage theft law. Ms. Bitbadal explained that other cities, like San Jose, receive business tax instead of issuing business license. Ms. Bitbadal mentioned that over the next two months Economic Development Department will conduct outreach to businesses on the wage theft law along with the scheduled minimum wage increase.

B. Receive Update on Cannabis

Economic Development Director Edesa Bitbadal notified the Commission that the City is looking into ways to adopt an ordinance on cannabis businesses. Ms. Bitbadal informed the Commission of the Subcommittee on Cannabis meeting taking place on March 13 at 12:30pm. Ms. Bitbadal updated the Commission of the progress of staff research. She mentioned that Economic Development staff created a map that identifies two areas for cannabis establishments. She also clarified that state law does not allow cannabis businesses near childcare centers and schools. Commissioner Peoples mentioned that he has been contacted by companies regarding cannabis cultivation, but companies decided not to move forward due to regulation. Chair Ablaza asked about the impact of allowing cannabis businesses near the industrial area near highway 880. Ms. Bitbadal explained the reason for selecting the two areas. Commissioner Chen asked about inputs from Police Department. Ms. Bitbadal responded that Police Department has been involved in the process and their concern regarding public safety.

C. Receive Update on Bike Share Pilot Program

Economic Development Director Edesa Bitbadal informed the Commission that Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) opening date has been delayed until 2019. Ms. Bitbadal gave a presentation on the progress of Bike Share Pilot Program to support last mile connectivity to Milpitas companies. Ms. Bitbadal mentioned her experience of seeing bike share programs in San Diego and Chengdu, China. Ms. Bitbadal commended on Economic Development Specialist Noa Kornbluh's work on the Bike Share Pilot Program. Ms. Bitbadal mentioned the sites selected for the pilot area and clarified that this program will not cost the City any funds. Commissioner Peoples asked for clarification on bike share to which Ms. Bitbadal explained. Chair Ablaza asked if there will still be docks for the bikes and Ms. Bitbadal confirmed that the system would be dockless. Ms. Bitbadal showed a map of bike paths and the pricing and costs of the program. Ms. Bitbadal informed the Commission of the next steps of the Bike Share Pilot Program and the potential to be a part of future transportation demand management strategies for property owners and businesses.

D. Receive Update on Milpitas Climate Action Plan

Economic Development Specialist Daniel Degu informed the Commission of State regulations regarding climate issues. Mr. Degu explained that the City adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2013 to reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 15% by 2020. The Economic Development Department plans to engage with other City departments to see where we are in Climate Action Plan and our 2020 goals. Mr. Degu discussed past actions the City has taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, for example Property Assessed Clean Energy and Community Choice Energy, to meet the 2020 goals that the City is trying to achieve. Chair Ablaza asked for the guidelines on reducing greenhouse gas reduction. Mr. Degu gave examples. Vice-Chair Wettstein asked about the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations and how that would help. Mr. Degu said that EV Charging Stations will help in achieving the City's adopted target of reducing community-wide GHG emissions.

E. Receive Update on Silicon Valley Clean Energy

Ms. Bitbadal informed the Commission of Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) and the outreach that is planned for the next upcoming months. The generation cost for electricity this year for SVCE will remain less than PG&E. Ms. Bitbadal notified the Commission of the next Silicon Valley Clean Energy community meeting on March 27th in the evening at the Senior Center. Information about SVCE was also published in the last newsletter, and a presentation was conducted at the Milpitas Chamber Breakfast.

F. Receive Update on Commission Subcommittee

Economic Development Director Edesa Bitbadal informed the Commission that the City Council is looking into restructuring commissions. Ms. Bitbadal mentioned that Economic Development Commission will be transformed into Economic Development and Trade Commission, and the number of commissioners will likely be reduced. Ms. Bitbadal informed the Commission of the next meeting of Subcommittee on Commissions is planned for late in March. Economic Development Commission will continue as planned, and Chair and Vice-chair positions will not be elected for now.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Council Liaison Update

None.

B. Commissioners Update

Vice-Chair Wetenstein informed the Commission of the Milpitas Chamber Monthly Breakfast Meeting on March 13 with the City Public Works Director being the featured speaker, and the next Milpitas Chamber of Commerce Connections Club meeting on March 21 on the issue of Emergency Preparedness. Commissioner Chen gave an update on the Tesla Supercharging Station and the ongoing construction at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Commissioner Peoples informed the Commission that due to the change in Fire Code that prohibits open flame indoor, many businesses such as hotpot restaurants are not able to operate. Commissioner Peoples informed the Commission about the Milpitas Community Museum's progress. Commissioner Brahmhatt informed the Commission about SEMI's upcoming events in Milpitas. Mr. Brahmhatt suggested possible partnership with SEMI. Chair Ablaza reminded the Commission of the importance of attendance. Commissioner Tsao announced an Access to Capital Workshop co-hosted by SBDC, Milpitas Chamber and the Economic Development Department on April 18th at Dave and Busters from 11:30-1pm, \$20 per person for lunch. The Economic Development Director emphasized that the Economic Development Department will be supportive of any future joint efforts with the Chamber to support local businesses.

C. Great Mall Update

Economic Development Specialist Daniel Degu informed the Commission of a special outdoor basketball tournament event that will take place in the coming months at the Great Mall.

D. Staff Report

Economic Development Director Edesa Bitbadal gave an update to the Commission regarding the International Council of Shopping Center (ICSC) Deal Making Conference and the outreach to businesses that the Economic Development Team conducted while at and after the Conference. Ms. Bitbadal gave the Commission statistics from ICSC about sales at Brick & Mortar stores vs online retail for the past year. 90% of shoppers made purchases from retailers with a physical presence. Ms. Bitbadal also informed the Commission that the following companies have decided to locate their business to Milpitas: SF Motors, Big Al's, and Sportsman's Warehouse. These companies will fill existing vacancies at the McCarthy Ranch and new industrial space at McCarthy Creekside.

Chair Ablaza asked if the requirement of commercial on the ground floor that the Planning Commission put forward was brought up by the Economic Development Department. Ms. Bitbadal said that Economic Development Department has not been involved in the process.

Economic Development Specialist Daniel Degu informed the Commission that Form 700 needs to be filled with the City Clerk by April 2nd. Ms. Bitbadal informed the Commission of the Commissioner's Recognition Lunch event on April 28.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Chen motioned, and seconded Commissioner Peoples to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 PM to the regularly-scheduled commission meeting on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 4:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.