



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, May 14, 2018  
Location: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room  
Start Time: 4:07 PM  
End Time: 5:21 PM

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## I. FLAG SALUTE, CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Ablaza called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Alternate Commissioner Reddy was seated.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ricardo Ablaza, Chair  
Warren Wettenstein, Vice-Chair  
Anna Wang, Commissioner (4:10)  
Jeffrey Chen, Commissioner  
Donald Peoples, Commissioner  
Dhaval Brahmabhatt, Commissioner  
Lynne Rice, Commissioner  
Chris Norwood, Commissioner  
Raghu Reddy, Alternate Commissioner

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charlene Tsao, Commissioner (Excused)  
Minh Nguyen, Commissioner (Excused)  
Anthony Phan, Councilmember (Excused)

### CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Edesa Bitbadal, Economic Development Director  
Daniel Degu, Economic Development Specialist

## II. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Economic Development Director Edesa Bitbadal requested to add “Harassment” to New Business as Item 6E.

Motion: to approve the agenda, as amended.

Motion/Second: Wettenstein/Peoples

Motion carried by a vote of:	Ayes:	9
	Noes:	0
	Absent:	Tsao, Nguyen
	Abstain:	0

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### A. April 9, 2018

Commissioner Wettenstein requested that the submitted meeting minutes be approved at the June EDC meeting.

Motion: to approve the May 14, 2018, Economic Development Commission meeting minutes at the June 11, 2018 meeting.

Motion/Second: Rice/Peoples

Motion carried by a vote of:	Ayes:	9
	Noes:	0
	Absent:	Tsao, Nguyen
	Abstain:	0

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Review the Economic Development Commissioners Roles & Responsibilities

Ms. Bitbadal presented to the Commission a high-level overview of the Commission By-Laws, and informed the Commission that their role is to advise the City County on business issues and to design, develop, and implement a comprehensive economic development program for the City of Milpitas. Ms. Bitbadal also informed the Commission of their charges.

Commissioner Peoples read Section 10 of the EDC Bylaws which states that the duties of the Commission is intended to be advisory to the City Council.

Commissioner Norwood commended that he would like to see the public education system tie in with economic development, to which Ms. Bitbadal responded that economic development has worked with the school district to development programs for the students.

### B. Election of 2018 Officers

Pursuant to the Commission's Bylaws, new officers for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair are to be elected at the beginning of each calendar year. New officers will serve in this role until the new Commission is formed by the City Council.

Chair Ablaza opened the floor for Chair nominations. Commissioner Peoples nominated Commissioner Rice as Chair with Commissioner Chen seconding the nomination. Commissioner Rice accepted the nomination. Commissioner Rice nominated Commissioner Chen as Chair with Commissioner Wang seconding the nomination. Commissioner Chen accepted the nomination. Commissioner Reddy nominated Commission Wettenstein as Chair with Commissioner Peoples seconding the nomination. Commissioner Wettenstein accepted the nomination. The motion to close the nominations for the Chair position was closed. The vote for Commissioner Rice as Chair was majority: Commissioner Peoples, Chen, Reddy, Ablaza, Norwood, and Brahmhatt. The Commission now has Commissioner Rice as the 2018 Economic Development Commission Chair.

(Past) Chair Ablaza opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations. Commissioner Peoples nominated Commissioner Chen as Vice Chair with Commissioner Wang seconding the nomination. Commissioner Chen accepted the nomination. The motion to close the nominations for the Vice Chair position was closed. The vote was unanimous and the Commission now has Commissioner Chen as the 2018 Economic Development Commission Vice Chair.

### C. Brown Act

Ms. Bitbadal informed the Commission that the City Attorney provided a memorandum to City staff about serial meetings and potential Brown Act violations for the Commissions knowledge.

Commissioner Peoples inquired if there are different rules whether you are advisory or a decision maker, to which Ms. Bitbadal responded that the rules apply to both governing bodies.

### D. Receive Update on Commission Subcommittee

Ms. Bitbadal introduced Councilmember Nuñez to provide an update on Commission Subcommittee. Councilmember Nuñez informed the Commission that Sister Cities Commission would like to be a part of EDC, and a recommendation by the Commission Subcommittee will follow at the next subcommittee meeting in June. Councilmember Nuñez also informed the EDC that the Commission Subcommittee still needs to determine the number of seats joining EDC.

Commissioner Peoples supported the proposed new changes to the Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Bitbadal asked Councilmember Nuñez what change in membership should the EDC expect, to which Councilmember Nuñez responded that the number will be determined between now and the next subcommittee meeting.

### E. Harassment

This item was heard after Item 6B. Ms. Bitbadal introduced Tina Murphy, Human Resource Director, to speak on the topic of harassment. Ms. Murphy reminded the Commission that the City of Milpitas has a harassment policy that protects both City staff and Commissioners, and encouraged Commissioners to contact the Human Resources Department should one have any questions about the policy.

## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A. Council Liaison Update

Councilmember Nunez provided an update in the absence of Councilmember Phan. Councilmember Nuñez announced that Silicon Valley Clean Energy is having a community meeting tonight at 6:30 PM in the Senior Center.

Commissioner Wettenstein asked about the bingo ordinance, to which Councilmember Nuñez responded that this item will go before the City Council on May 15 and this ordinance will provide nonprofits another stream of revenue. The ordinance is closely identical to the City of Santa Clara.

### B. Commissioners Update

Commissioner Brahmhatt thanked Economic Development staff for assisting the Santa Clara Valley chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Commissioner Wettenstein announced that on May 23, 2018, at 11:30 AM the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce is having a Connection Club meeting at Dave & Buster's in the Great Mall.

Chair Rice asked Ms. Bitbadal when direct mailers for minimum wage would go out to businesses, to which Ms. Bitbadal responded that letters have already been mailed by the City, and Economic Development staff will soon begin door to door outreach to small businesses.

Commissioner Wang gave three announcements: (1) a cultural festival will take place in September; (2) a major city in China would like to form a Sister City with Milpitas; (3) an innovation company from China has decided to locate their headquarters in Milpitas.

Commissioner Norwood recapped the successes from the Milpitas Elementary Olympics which took place on May 5, 2018. Over 300 children participated in the event, and this was a joint partnership between the City of Milpitas and the Milpitas Unified School District.

Vice Chair Chen gave two updates: (1) thanked Economic Development staff for supporting the Embassy Suites hard hat tour (preview event) on April 12, 2018, and one more preview event will take place either in May or June; (2) the Tesla charging station is complete and the installation of the charging stalls only remain.

Commissioner Wettenstein announced that the 24 Hour Fitness Super Sport had a soft opening at the former Mervyn's site on May 10, 2018.

### C. Great Mall Update

Chair Rice gave five updates: (1) the Great Mall is about 99% complete with its mall renovations; (2) the Rediscover Great Mall Campaign will likely relaunch in June and will target shoppers who live past a 5-mile radius; (3) 3Ball is scheduled to take place July 20 through July 22; (4) a circus event will take place between the end of June and early July; and (5) Booster Fuel will service the mall for another year due to customer demand.

Commissioner Wettenstein asked if there was a cost to attend the circus, to which Chair Rice responded by saying there is a cost to attend the circus.

Commissioner Brahmhatt asked if the mall plans to add solar panels for solar generation, to which Chair Rice responded that the electronic signs on the outside of the mall are powered by solar and inside renovations of mall are PACE financing projects.

Ms. Bitbadal added that Booster Fuel is one of the projects Economic Development Department brought to the City of Milpitas, to which Chair Rice responded that shoppers of the mall appreciate and are continuing to discover the application.

#### **D. Staff Report**

Ms. Bitbadal thanked the Commissioners for their service to the EDC and recapped the Commissioner Luncheon. Other activities recapped included: (1) a public hearing on the budget which took place on May 10; (2) City Council agenda item on May 1 discussed potential November 6, 2018, ballot measures for transient occupancy tax, cannabis use tax, and business license tax modernization.

Ms. Bitbadal also updated the Commission on the following development activities: (1) Home2Suites and Element Hotel are moving forward and adding 350 hotel rooms; (2) the Landmark Towers project will go before the City Council on May 15 to renew their permits because they have expired; and (3) City staff is meeting with VTA staff to discuss potential uses of three VTA-owned parcels in Milpitas.

Other updates provided by Ms. Bitbadal included: (1) MIG was selected to lead the update of the Midtown Specific Plan; (2) on June 1 the City will host a ceremonial launch event for SVCE; (3) BevMo ribbon cutting event will take place on May 17 at 4:00 PM; (4) the Economic Development Department hosted a booth on May 11 at the Silicon Valley Chinese Technology and Business Association, also known as SVCTBA, Smart City Conference; (5) the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, also known as SVLG, will host an Energy & Sustainability Summit on May 24; and (6) a Yelp event will take place likely in July for local businesses in Milpitas.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Peoples motioned, and seconded by Commissioner Brahmbhatt to adjourn the meeting at 5:21 PM to the regularly-scheduled commission meeting on Monday, June 11, 2018 at 4:00 PM. The motion carried unanimously.