



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, May 11, 2015 at 6:02 pm

Where: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room

Attendants: Chair Wettenstein; Vice Chair Ablaza; Commissioners, Brahmbhatt, Holthaus, C. Nguyen, M. Nguyen, Nunez, Owens, Peoples, Tsao (6:06pm); Economic Development Manager Edesa Bitbadal, Planner Darryl Boyd, Recording Secretary Rachele Currie

Excused Absence: Vice Mayor Montano (was in Special Council Meeting, 2nd Floor) Commissioner Bhambhra

Unexcused Absence: Commissioner Wong

I. **Flag Salute**

Chair Wettenstein called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Roll Call and Approval of Alternates**

Chair Wettenstein called for Roll. Commissioner Tsao was not present during roll call but came in at 6:06pm; Alternate Commissioner Holthaus was seated. Commissioners Bhambhra, and Wong were not present.

III. **Public Forum (Please *limit comments to 3 minutes*) – No public present**

IV. **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Nunez made the motion to move Agenda Item VII – New Business for discussion before Agenda Item VI – Announcements and seconded by Vice Chair Ablaza.

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 10
Noes: 0
Absent: Bhambhra, Wong
Abstain: 0

V. **Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2015 Commission minutes**

Motion: to approve the April 13, 2015 Economic Development Commission Minutes as submitted.

Motion/Second: Vice Chair Ablaza / Commissioner Nunez

Motion carried by a vote of:

Ayes: 8
Noes: 0
Absent: Bhambhra, Wong
Abstain: C. Nguyen, M. Nguyen

VII. **New Business**

A. **Santa Clara Valley Water District Presentation**

Ms. Bitbadal gave a brief explanation of this agenda item; she stated that Santa Clara Valley Water District staff were invited to give presentation regarding water conservation as it relates to businesses on how to educate them during this drought crisis our state is experiencing. Without further ado, she introduced Karen Koppett.

Ms. Koppett thanked Ms. Bitbadal and the commission for this opportunity to speak before them and give an update about this drought situation we are in. She also mentioned her colleague, Ms. Michelle Conlon, is present in the audience for additional input as the presentation goes. A powerpoint presentation was shown followed by questions and answers portion.

Chair Wettenstein inquired if Santa Barbara is the foster child for water conservation, to which Ms Koppett responded that Santa Barbara is doing great in conserving water however she wants to think that Santa Clara County is the foster child for water conservation. Ms. Koppett shared with everyone that she works in one of Santa Clara Valley Water District departments where they're developing recycled water program as well as desalination. She is proud to announce that Milpitas is one of the best cities with water conservation programs in the County.

Ms. Koppett reminded commissioners of 2 new water restrictions for businesses namely: a) Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request; and

2) Hotels and Motels must provide guests with the option of not having towels and linens laundered daily. She mentioned that SCVWD Board of Directors adopted a 30% reduction in water use through 2015 (increased from 20% in 2014); and a water landscaping 2 days per week act. Governor Brown issued an Executive Order in April 2015 mandating a 25% reduction in water use, allowing agencies to implement drought pricing, and facilitating investments in technologies aimed at coping with drought long-term. She concluded her report by enumerating water conservation programs that County business owners as well as residents should avail themselves to. The entire Commission thanked Santa Clara Valley Water District staff for the wonderful presentation and a few giveaways.

B. Pacific Gas & Electric Presentation

Ms. Bitbadal introduced PG&E representative, Mr. Jerry Hutchison, to the Commission. Mr. Hutchison thanked the commission for the chance of presenting PG&E's economic development program to City of Milpitas. He then introduced PG&E Account Manager, Sonya Casares who showed powerpoint presentation. The presentation outlined PG&E's Economic Development Incentives and Program for businesses. PG&E has partnered with CALED to conduct Executive Leadership Roundtables on "Growing Your Local Economy" focused on individual cities or counties in PG&E's service territory (partnering with the local EDC). These roundtables are meant to educate community leaders on economic development and show them what they can do in order to grow their local economy, create a positive business climates, and retain & create jobs.

She was excited to inform the commission the offer of a new economic development rate for companies with high energy loads whose electricity expenses inhibit location or expansion in California.. She further explained that this new development rate will help attract and retain businesses to California, especially to those communities affected by high unemployment rate. Besides this new development rate, PG&E also has an Economic Vitality Grant Program that promotes innivation and job creation and gives individual awards up to \$20,000. More information is available at www.pge.com/evgrants. Discussion ensued between Ms. Casares and the commission that ended with Ms. Casares informing everyone that PG&E has a pre-approved list of LED manufacturers so ensure the safety and reliability of the LED lights being sold to business consumers.

VI. Announcements

Vice Mayor Montano is not present due to a conflict with a Special Council meeting being held in the Council Chambers the same time as the Commission meeting. Economic Development Manager Edesa Bitbadal welcomed new Commissioner Terri Owens representing the hotel industry. Commissioner Owens thanked Ms. Bitbadal; briefly informed everyone about her professional background and that she is excited to be in this commission.

Commissioner Peoples reported a group of people filed a 501(c)3 organization called Milpitas Community Museum. Ms. Bitbadal continued her announcements by updating the commission about the April 23rd ICSC event in Fremont and thanked Commissioner Holthaus for helping her out. Commissioner Holthaus said that she and Vice Mayor Montano will be attending a Global Business Council Summit in Puerto Vallarta on June 24. Also, April 25 at 11:30am is the Commissioners' Recognition Luncheon event in Milpitas Community Center.

A discussion about rescheduling June 8 Commission meeting to June 1 ensued where Commissioner Nunez motioned to cancel June 8 and have a special meeting on June 1, seconded by Commissioner Peoples, and was approved unanimously.

IX. Upcoming Events – Chair Wettenstein reminded everyone Milpitas International BBQ event scheduled on May 30 and 31, 2015; Dave & Buster event for small business on May 20; and Milpitas Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on May 12 at the Barbara Lee Senior Center.

X. Adjourn – Commissioner Nunez motioned, and seconded by Commissioner Peoples to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm. The motion carried unanimously.