I. Flag Salute
Chair Ablaza called the meeting to order at 4:11 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates
Chair Ablaza called for Roll. Vice Mayor Montano, Vice Chair Brahmbhatt, Commissioner M. Nguyen, Holthaus, and Strle were not present. Alternate Commissioner Reddy was seated.

III. Public Forum (Please limit comments to 3 minutes) – None.

IV. Approval of Agenda
Economic Development Manager Bitbadal requested to defer agenda item "B" under "New Business" to the next Commission meeting.

Motion: to approve the agenda as amended with the deletion of New Business item stated above.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Nuñez / Commissioner Wang

Motion carried by a vote of:
Ayes: 8
Noes: 0
Absent: Holthaus, Strle, Brahmbhatt, M. Nguyen
Abstain: 0

V. Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2016 and October 17, 2016 Commission minutes

A. September 12, 2016
Motion: to approve the September 12, 2016 Economic Development Commission Minutes as submitted.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Wettenstein / Commissioner C. Nguyen

Motion carried by a vote of:
Ayes: 8
Noes: 0
Absent: Holthaus, Strle, Brahmbhatt, M. Nguyen
Abstain: 0

B. October 17, 2016
Motion: to approve the October 17, 2016 Economic Development Commission Minutes as submitted.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Nuñez / Commissioner Tsao

Motion carried by a vote of:
Ayes: 5
Noes: 0
Absent: Holthaus, Strle, Brahmbhatt, M. Nguyen
Abstain: Wettenstein, C. Nguyen, Reddy

VI. New Business

A. 2017 Work Plan
Economic Development Manager Bitbadal presented to the Commission a draft EDC 2017 Work Plan that outlines a set of five overarching goals for calendar year 2017. The purpose of this Work Plan is to articulate a set of measurable strategies and actions to facilitate economic growth and new

Commissioner Wettenstein stated that he noticed last year the Tri-City Voice newspaper provided good press about Manufacturing Day and that it would be a good idea for EDC to promote Manufacturing Day in Milpitas.

Commissioner Tsao requested that the Commission consider outreach to International Delegations as a Work Plan strategy.


Commissioner C. Nguyen asked if City Staff aims to attract investors and entrepreneurs to Milpitas through the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program in 2017.

Economic Development Manager Bitbadal explained that the City of Milpitas will continue to provide letters of support for companies that are interested in investing through the EB-5 program.

Commissioner Tsao asked City Staff to clarify “Goal [4]” if higher density projects includes mixed-use developments.

Economic Development Manager Bitbadal clarified that higher density projects could be mixed-use with first floor commercial and higher density office developments.

Commissioner Nuñez recommended that City Staff revise Goal [4] to reflect the following language: Encouragement of higher density developments. To encourage developers and land owners to build higher density buildings that retain jobs and fiscal stability of the City. High density projects could be mixed-use with first floor commercial and higher density office developments. Chair Ablaza supported Commissioner Nuñez’s recommendation.

Commissioner C. Nguyen asked City Staff to clarify “Goal [3]” how the EDC will actively be supporting economically productive developments.

Economic Development Manager Bitbadal explained that Goal [3] will enable the EDC to continue to review and comment on projects that relate to economic development.

Motion: to approve the EDC 2017 Work Plan with revision to Goal [4] as indicated below, and recommend to City Council.


Motion/Second: Commissioner Nuñez / Commissioner Peoples

Motion carried by a vote of: Ayes: 8 Noes: 0 Absent: Holthaus, Strle, Brahmbhatt, M. Nguyen Abstain: 0
B. Development Projects in the Pipeline
Agenda item has been deferred to the next Commission meeting.

VII. Announcements

A. Staff Report
Economic Development Manager Bitbadal announced the appointment of the new Economic Development Specialist Daniel Degu, who came to the City of Milpitas from the County of Santa Clara, with years of experience managing programs and projects that relate to economic development. Ms. Bitbadal also announced the BISNOW and ICSC (International Council of Shopping Centers) events were both very successful. Ms. Bitbadal ended her updates by encouraging Commissioners’ to attend the third General Plan Public Workshop on Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30pm.

B. Commissioners’ Update
Commissioner Wettenstein announced the following upcoming events: Milpitas Chamber Mixer on December 8, 2016 at Huntford Printing & Graphics and Drone World Expo on November 15 and 16 at the San Jose Convention Center. Commissioner Wettenstein also announced the grand opening of Service King Collision Repair Center, while early planning for the Milpitas Chamber International BBQ & Festival has already begun with Cisco Systems pledging support. The “Monday Blast” email from the Milpitas Chamber is now available to non-members. Commissioners’ interested in receiving this weekly email blast are encouraged to sign up at the Milpitas Chamber website. Commissioner Wang announced that on December 3, 2016 at Santa Clara Convention Center a forum will be held focusing on global economics and entrepreneurship. Interested Commissioners’ are encouraged to attend. Commissioner Peoples announced that Measure K, a measure to require voter approval before rezoning parks or open space, had passed on November 8, 2016.

C. Council Liaison Update – None.

VIII. Adjournment
Motion: to adjourn the meeting to the next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting on January 9, 2017, at 4:00 PM.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Nuñez / C. Nguyen

Motion carried by a vote of:  
Ayes: 8  
Noes: 0  
Absent: Holthaus, Strle, Brahmbhatt, M. Nguyen  
Abstain: 0