

MINUTES of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
December 11, 2023 @ 6:15 p.m.

Committee Members present:

Councilor Donald Austin, Chairman
Councilor Robert Gibson, Vice Chair
Councilor Richard R. Michaud
Councilor Matt Gerding

Staff Members present:

City Manager, Bob Belmore
Finance Director, Scott Smith
Director of Planning & Community Development,
Michelle Mears
City Clerk, Kristen LaPanne

Others in Attendance:

Wentworth Douglas Hospital Property Manager,
Richard Saklad

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Austin at 6:15 p.m.

APPROVE PAST MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Councilor Michaud made a motion to accept the November 29, 2023 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 3-0.

Councilor Gibson arrived following the vote to approve the past meeting minutes.

REVIEW SIGN APPLICATION FROM WENTWORTH DOUGLAS HOSPITAL FACILITY AT THE SOMERSWORTH PLAZA

Councilor Austin stated that Mr. Saklad submitted an application regarding new signage at the Hilltop Family Practice facility located within the Somersworth Plaza. City Manager Belmore explained that the application is requesting that one sign be replaced and two signs be refaced with the facility's rebranding of Mass General Brigham. He mentioned that the initial application requested to increase the size of one of the signs, however, Mr. Saklad rescinded that request to avoid having to go through the process of getting permission from the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

The Committee reviewed the application submitted by Mr. Saklad which included photos. The Committee agreed that they like the new proposed design of the signage and were all in support of approving the application.

Councilor Gibson made a motion to approve the application submitted by Mr. Saklad regarding the updating of their signage. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 4-0.

Mr. Saklad hopes that the updates will be made within the next month.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Gerding commented that he noticed the new Historic District signs have been installed, he was excited to see them and stated they look good.

Director Mears provided a brief update on upcoming development within the City including Vida Tortilla moving to 45 Market Street from Dover, movement on the proposed Somersworth sports dome, and Janco Electronics Inc. looking to relocate in Somersworth off of Lilac Avenue.

Councilor Austin commented that he has enjoyed being the Chair of the Committee. He stated that the Committee has done a lot of great work throughout his terms as a City Councilor, he added that he will miss the Committee and he also looks forward to watching the continued growth of the City over the next two years.

The Committee members thanked Councilor Austin for his time and commitment to the Committee.

ADJOURN

Councilor Michaud made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gibson and passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk