



CITY OF MILPITAS

Economic Development and Trade Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

4:30 PM

Monday, April 10, 2023

Milpitas City Hall

First Floor Committee Conference Room

455 E. Calaveras Boulevard

CALL TO ORDER Chair McNeil called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Commissioner Rice led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL Economic Development Specialist Michael Thomas called the roll.

PRESENT: Chair Casey McNeil, Vice Chair Norwood; Commissioners Parkash Daryani, Lynne Rice and Cheri Romero; Alternate Commissioners Conrad Schapira and Michael Nguyen; Economic Development Coordinator Daniel Degu and Economic Development Specialist Michael Thomas

ABSENT: Commissioners Paul Medawar and Stephen Huang (Student Commissioner); Mayor Carmen Montano (Council Liaison), Economic Development Director Alex Andrade

SEATING OF ALTERNATES Alternate Commissioner Schapira seated in place of Commissioner Medawar
Alternate Commissioner Nguyen seated in place of vacant Chamber of Commerce seat

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Recommended Action: Approve April 10, 2023 regular meeting agenda of the Economic Development and Trade Commission as submitted

MOVER/SECONDER: Norwood/Rice

RESULT: Approved

AYES: Nguyen, Schapira, Romero, Daryani, Rice, Norwood, McNeil

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Recommended Action: Approve Economic Development and Trade Commission regular meeting minutes of March 13, 2023.

MOVER/SECONDER: Daryani/Norwood

RESULT: Approved

AYES: Romero, Daryani, Norwood, McNeil

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: Nguyen, Schapira, Rice

PUBLIC FORUM No Public Comment was submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chair McNeil summarized the Commission’s special meeting of March 28, 2023, introduced the new standing agenda item known as *New Business Item Discussion* and provide guidance to the commissioners on this new agenda item.

Commissioner Rice stated that the Great Mall will host Milpitas Unified School District students in grades kindergarten through second grade on April 21 as part Earth Day activities.

Economic Development Coordinator Degu informed the Commission that local news media reported that glass manufacturer View, Inc. plans to lay off employees at its Milpitas location. City staff will ascertain the impacts of the layoffs with the City’s workforce development partner NOVAworks.

Mr. Degu informed the Commission that NOVAworks and the California Employment Development Department are hosting layoff assistance webinars scheduled for April 11 and 25.

Commissioner Rice requested contact information for NOVAworks to inform NOVAworks about job openings at the Great Mall.

Economic Development Specialist Thomas stated that Milpitas’ minimum wage will increase to \$17.20 per hour beginning July 1, 2023 in accordance with the City’s Minimum Wage Ordinance. Commissioner Rice requested San Jose’s minimum wage and staff will provide off-agenda correspondence in that regard.

Mr. Thomas stated San Jose State University will host its annual economic summit on June 15, 2023. Mr. Thomas summarized status of outreach efforts to assess employment needs in the Milpitas hotel and lodging sector. Staff will agendize this issue for a future Commission meeting. Mr. Thomas stated that the City intends to plan for an in-person event as part of Manufacturing Day, which is October 6, 2023. Staff will update the Commission on event planning and needs during future Commission meetings. Manufacturing company Integra Technologies is scheduled to host a job fair for positions at its Milpitas location on April 20.

New Senior Special Projects Associate Margaret Tamisiea introduced herself to the Commission.

Chair McNeil recognized Mr. John Agg with the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce who is attending the meeting on behalf of the chamber.

Coordinator Degu introduced Planning Director Ned Thomas who informed the Commission of the City Council study session on the Gateway-Main Street Specific Plan on April 25 at the Barbara Lee Milpitas Senior Center. Director Thomas stated that Milpitas’ ride share service SMART is offering free rides during the month of April in honor of Earth Day.

BUSINESS ITEM 9a. Zoning Advisory Group

Recommended Action: Select Commissioners for two seats on the Zoning Advisory Group (ZAG).

Chair McNeil introduced this item and Senior Planner Michael Fossati who introduced Planning Director Ned Thomas. Director Thomas summarized the purpose, scope and selection process and meeting schedule of the Zoning Advisory Group (ZAG), as well as eligibility, commitment and duties of ZAG members.

Director Thomas provided examples of items for ZAG consideration such as evaluating the City's sign ordinance since brick-and-mortar business locations are affected by the ordinance if they choose to display signage. Another consideration is including land use definitions for EV charging stations and data centers in the Municipal Zoning Code, which did not exist when the City's current Zoning Ordinance was adopted.

Vice Chair Norwood asked if a map resource showing revenue per zoning district existed. Director Thomas stated that the comprehensive zoning update would include a new zoning map consistent with the new Zoning Code. Director Thomas stated that the General Plan 2040 calls for creation of new land uses including Business Park-Research and Development (BPRD) and Neighborhood Commercial-Mixed Use (NCMU), which are anticipated to contribute to City revenues. Development of zoning standards for these new land uses are in progress via the City's zoning update consultant.

Commissioner Daryani asked if the zoning code update will result in significant zoning changes to existing residential zoning districts. Director Thomas stated that while no zoning changes were planned for existing residential zoning districts, updates to residential design standards will be considered and updated as needed, thus requiring input from community members. Vice Chair Norwood said the economic benefits of the zoning code update could help inform the Commission in developing future workplans due to synergy between planning, economic development and the Commission.

Chair McNeil asked which commissioners were interested in serving on the ZAG. Vice Chair Norwood and Commissioner Daryani expressed interest in serving on the ZAG. Director Thomas noted that a third commissioner can be considered as an alternate ZAG member when an EDTC ZAG representative is absent.

Chair McNeil opened the public forum.

Chamber of Commerce member John Agg expressed interest in participating as a ZAG member if eligible for selection.

Chair McNeil closed the public forum

After discussion, motion to select Vice Chair Norwood and Commissioner Daryani to serve on the Zoning Advisory Group.

MOVER/SECONDER: Romero/Rice

RESULT: Approved

AYES: Nguyen, Schapira, Romero, Daryani, Rice, Norwood, McNeil

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

9b. ARPA Program Updates

Recommended Action: Receive update.

Chair McNeil introduced this item and Senior Special Projects Associate Margaret Tamisiea delivered a slide presentation dated April 10, 2023. City staff is evaluating four non-profit organizations for alignment with the City's Economic Development Strategy workforce development goals as potential workforce development providers for \$150,000 in ARPA funding. The non-profit organizations being considered are SEMI Foundation, Hope for the Unhoused, Milpitas Unified School District Adult Education Program and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Ms. Tamisiea updated the Commissioners on existing ARPA-funded programs including the Catalytic Converter Theft Deterrent program, First Five Santa Clara County early learning teacher apprenticeship program and Milpitas Youth Force. Vice Chair Norwood asked how many high-school aged youth could be placed at each participating employer. Ms. Tamisiea said up to two individuals.

Commissioner Rice requested clarification on Hope for the Unhoused's services. Ms. Tamisiea said Hope for the Unhoused performs case management for homeless individuals and educating the broader community on homelessness issues and needs. Hope for the Unhoused seeks to help homeless individuals re-enter the workforce in partnership with educational institutions.

Commissioner Daryani asked what the difference between the First Five California and the First Five Santa Clara County. Ms. Tamisiea, Vice Chair Norwood and Commissioner Rice explained the differences between the two programs where the State of California and local government agencies share funding responsibilities.

Ms. Tamisiea and Economic Development Specialist Thomas explained the purpose, scope, eligibility and process for the ARPA-funded Storefront Improvement Grant Program, as well as completed and in progress tasks including outreach to eligible businesses by staff. Commissioner Romero asked if any applications have been received. Specialist Thomas stated staff has not received applications yet.

Ms. Tamisiea summarized tasks related to the Business Improvement District Feasibility study on Main Street including stakeholder outreach with project consultants Civitas Advisors and Community Strong Strategies. Commissioner Romero requested the Commissioner be informed of stakeholder outreach opportunities. Chair McNeil requested a hard copy of the activity sign-up sheet be provided to Commissioners at future meetings.

Commissioner Rice left the meeting at 5:32 PM.

Chair McNeil opened the public forum

Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD) Adult Education Principal Giuliana Brahim explained the Adult program is being considered for ARPA workforce development funds and which learners and programs the funds would cover if selected.

Commissioner Daryani asked about the adult education program's curriculum. Principal Brahim stated certificate programs are available, which serve as pre-requisites for additional training.

Chair McNeil closed the public forum.

After discussion, motion to receive presentation.

MOVER/SECONDER: Norwood/Romero

RESULT: Approved

AYES: Nguyen, Schapira, Romero, Daryani, Norwood, McNeil

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

9c. Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities

Recommended Action: Receive presentation.

Chair McNeil introduced this item and delivered a brief presentation about his professional background, knowledge and experience.

No public comment was submitted for this item.

After discussion, motion to receive presentation.

MOVER/SECONDER: Daryani/Romero

RESULT: Approved

AYES: Nguyen, Schapira, Romero, Daryani, Norwood, McNeil

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

9d. New Business Item Discussion

Recommended Action: Note and file Commissioners' suggestions.

Chair McNeil introduced this item and invited the commissioners to introduce and discuss items the Commission may consider including or modifying in future EDTC Workplans. Vice Chair Norwood suggested the relationship between zoning and economic development be explored. Commissioner Daryani suggested homelessness and subsidized housing for educators and students. Commissioner Romero expressed support for home affordability efforts and partnerships with the City and Milpitas Unified School District to host a "Road to Home Ownership" event to educate homebuyers about the homebuying process and financial assistance. Commissioner Romero suggested student scholarship opportunities and offered to provide home sales and commercial vacancy data to the Commission at future meetings.

No public comment was submitted for this item.

After discussion, no action required. Staff noted and filed Commissioners' suggestions.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn this meeting at 6:04 PM

MOVER/SECONDER: Daryani/Norwood

RESULT: Approved

AYES: Nguyen, Schapira, Romero, Daryani, Norwood, McNeil

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None