



CITY OF MILPITAS

Economic Development and Trade Commission

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 10, 2025
Committee Conference Room
Milpitas City Hall, First Floor
455 E. Calaveras Blvd. Milpitas

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Norwood called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Permit Navigator Nat Sandoval led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Economic Development Coordinator Michael Thomas called the roll.

PRESENT: Chairperson Chris Norwood, Commissioners Bill Bhagvat, Larry Ciardella, Parkash Daryani and Jacob Sanchez.

Alternate #1 Conrad Schapira, Alternate #2 Michael Nguyen

Student Commissioner Vasista Ramachandrani

City Council Liaison Councilmember William Lam

Staff: Director of Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives Alex Andrade, Economic Development Coordinator Michael Thomas, Economic Development Specialist Khaled Zubair and Permit Navigator Nat Sandoval

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Lynne Rice, Commissioner Casey McNeil

SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Alternate Member No. 1: Conrad Schapira was seated in place of Vice-Chair Rice

Alternate Member No. 2: Michael Nguyen was seated in place of Commissioner McNeil

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommended Action: Approve February 10, 2025 regular meeting agenda of the Economic Development & Trade Commission as submitted.

Mover / Second: Schapira / Norwood

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 7 NOES: 0

Ayes: Norwood, Schapira, Bhagvat, Daryani, Ciardella, Sanchez, and Nguyen

Noes: None **Abstentions:** None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommended Action: Approve January 13, 2025 regular meeting minutes of the Economic Development & Trade Commission as submitted.

Mover / Second: Schapira / Sanchez

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 7 NOES: 0

Ayes: Norwood, Schapira, Bhagvat, Daryani, Ciardella, Sanchez, and Nguyen

Noes: None **Abstentions:** None

PUBLIC FORUM

No speakers provided comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Bhagvat requested the assistance of staff to prepare a questionnaire to assist in outreach to the hospitality sector.

Student Commissioner Ramachandrani summarized a recent intermural technology competition that Milpitas High School (MHS) students attended in Mountain House. MHS students placed first in video game design and drone operation, as well as second place in coding, and third place in digital video production.

Commissioner Ciardella reminded the Commission about the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce's Crab Feed on March 14. Commissioner Ciardella also drew attention to the economic impact of the upcoming Super Bowl in 2026. Chair Norwood requested updates on staff's strategy and planning for the Super Bowl and the FIFA World Cup in relation to the Commission's work plan.

Chair Norwood reported that Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD) is continuing to move forward on Innovation Campus Extension Programming with Adult Education and NovaWorks. Mr. Norwood also drew attention to the ongoing impact of federal immigration policy on MUSD students, as well as aspects of the District's response.

Councilmember Lam updated the Commission on an increase to the City's Storm Impact Fee in some areas of Milpitas. Mr. Lam also summarized City Council's recent action on Community Development Block Grant funding priorities and informed the Commission of a 9% increase in the City's garbage fee.

Permit Navigator Sandoval explained City Council's priority to improve and streamline the permitting process and provided an update on the steps that the City is currently taking.

Economic Development Specialist Zubair invited Commissioners to attend the City's AI Made Simple workshop taking place that evening at 5:30 PM.

BUSINESS ITEMS

9a. Milpitas Commercial Real Estate Profile – Commissioner Sanchez

Recommended Action: Receive a presentation on the state of Milpitas' Commercial Real Estate market.

Chair Norwood introduced the agenda item and Commissioner Sanchez presented a slide deck on the competitive advantages of the Bay Area, including educational institutions, logistics, and supply chains. The presentation also covered interest rates, Milpitas' commercial real estate inventory and a market analysis/forecast.

No public comment was provided.

Commissioners discussed the details of the presentation and Commissioner Sanchez provided additional clarification on the commercial real estate leasing process.

Mover / Second: Daryani / Schapira

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 7 NOES: 0

Ayes: Norwood, Schapira, Bhagvat, Daryani, Ciardella, Sanchez, and Nguyen

Noes: None **Abstentions:** None

9b. Commission Work Plan Prioritization

Recommendation: Identify work plan action items to be prioritized in 2025.

Chair Norwood introduced the agenda item and explained its nexus to the Commissioner Handbook. Economic Development Coordinator Thomas provided remarks on this item. Commissioners selected work plan items for which to volunteer according to their interests and backgrounds.

Mover / Second: Daryani / Ciardella

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 7 NOES: 0

Ayes: Norwood, Schapira, Bhagvat, Daryani, Ciardella, Sanchez, and Nguyen

Noes: None **Abstentions:** None

9c. Regular Meeting Schedule

Recommendation: Determine if there is support to adjust meeting start time for future regular meetings and agendaize such consideration at a future regular Commission meeting.

Chair Norwood introduced the agenda item. Economic Development Director Andrade provided remarks on this item.

No public comment was provided.

After discussion, the Commission voted that the current regular meeting start time of 4:30 pm shall remain unchanged and requested that special start times be communicated in advance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mover/Second: Daryani / Sanchez

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 7 NOES: 0

Ayes: Norwood, Schapira, Bhagvat, Daryani, Ciardella, Sanchez, and Nguyen

Noes: None **Abstentions:** None