



## CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

P. O. Box 9422  
25 Cottage Road  
South Portland, ME 04116-9422

James H. Gailey  
City Manager

EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENT

### MINUTES

#### Economic Development Committee

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013**  
**6:00 to 8:00 PM**  
**City Hall – Council Chambers**

**Attendees:**

Steve Bushey – At-large

John Schwartzman – At-large

Dave Owen – District 1

Martin Macisso – District 3

Ed Palmer - Business

Bob O'Brien – Business

James Gailey – City Manager

Jon Jennings – Assistant City Manager

**Absent:**

Sergio Gaddar – District 2

Peter Stocks – District 4

William Collins – District 5

1. Approval of Minutes 4-0
2. Council Workshop on Economic Development

Jim Gailey updated the committee on the City Council workshop held on May 13. The Council and city staff discussed ways to better market the city including how we approach an overall communications plan. Do we bring on a staff person or firm to handle communications? A new plan for Route 1/Main Street was discussed. Jim mentioned the creation of a working group that will look at Route 1/Main Street in a comprehensive assessment. Martin and Steve volunteered to serve on the working group. A bike share program was also discussed. Jim also provided an update on Pan Am and Rigby Yard.

### 3. Update on Way-finding Project

Jim provided a further update on look and location of Way-Finding signage. Steve asked if signs will be ready for 2013. Jim said he hopes to get Council approval by fall of 2013 or spring of 2014. It was suggested that the city look to possibly consolidate signage on street. Staff will bring final sign design to committee for input and/or changes.

### 4. Economic Development Plan

Jon discussed the overall concept behind an economic development plan for the city. Jim discussed the real need for a plan that could provide direction for the city for years to come. John Schwartzman said the plan should be a business and public relations plan combined. It was mentioned that the Maine Terminal will play a big role in the future of the region. Jon provided an update on future plans for Mr. Cacoulidis property, discussed Knightville and all of the opportunities.

### 5. Buy Local Proposal

An overview of a draft Buy Local ordinance was provided. It was mentioned that support of local businesses is very important. The draft ordinance will go before the Council workshop on June 10. A copy of the proposed Buy Local concept was provided to the committee.

### 6. Micro-Loan and Emergency Loan Programs

Jim gave an update on both loan programs. It was expressed that it important to have a bank backing of any micro-loan. The hope is to adopt any changes and bring to the Council. Jim discussed the success of Cape Technologies as a recipient of the loan program.

Bob O'Brien brought up concerns about the emergency loan fund and whether it is necessary. Dave also expressed concern if there is a city-wide disaster. How could the city help all businesses? The consensus was a lack of support for the emergency loan program with the committee. The committee committed to spend time to review the loan program. John asked if the emergency loan could be included in the micro-loan program.

Martin asked if the city has loan programs for six figure needs. Jim discussed the existing city program providing gap financing to help local companies. Steve discussed whether the city should be in the loan

business due to risk exposure. Dave asked if data is available for success rate of loan program. Jon will provide an update.

#### 7. Business Friendly Update

Jon provided an update on the city re-applying for the DECD Certified Business Friendly Community program. The city sent in the reapplication letter and information on May 24. We expect a notification from DECD in mid-June.

#### 8. Other

Steve mentioned all of the new companies coming to South Portland including Otto Pizza, Five Guys, Nordstrom Rack, Qdoba, and Casco Bay Steel expansion.

Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Cordially,

Jon P. Jennings  
Assistant City Manager