



EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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

Don Gerrish
Interim City Manager

MINUTES

Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

6:00 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers

Attendees:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Martha Riehle – District 1 | Ross Little – District 2 |
| Joel Ouellette – District 2 | Stephen Bushey – District 3 |
| Peter Stocks – District 4 | William Collins – District 5 |
| Bruce Bennett – District 5 (incoming) | Fawn Dunphy – Business |
| Brandon Mitchell – Business | Bob O'Brien – Business |
| Joshua Reny – Asst. City Manager | |

Absent:

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| David Schneider – District 1 | Ed Palmer – Business |
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1. Committee Chair Ross Little called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Joel Ouellette was welcomed to the Committee and introduced himself. It was noted that this will be Bill Collins' final meeting; Bruce Bennett will be taking his place effective January 1st. The Committee thanked Bill for his years of service on the Committee. Bill noted that the Committee has come a long way during his tenure, and is more focused now on bigger economic development issues.
2. Minutes – Motion by O'Brien seconded by Stocks to approve the minutes of October 12, 2016 and September 14, 2016. Josh noted that a quorum was not present on October 12, but minutes were kept for the permanent record. All in favor.
3. Ross asked Peter to update the Committee on work to-date on the pier project concept. Peter explained the macro level trends in the aquaculture industry and the opportunities that exist in Casco Bay. There is not currently a facility in Portland harbor set up to accommodate the offloading, storage, and processing of farmed shellfish, and an opportunity exists. The Portland Street Pier would be a good location for such a facility and is municipally owned, making it a good candidate for grants and public investment to support the industry. This could be very impactful and substantial economic development initiative in South Portland. Current estimates for pier expansion are around \$175/sf.

Improvements with the building would also need to be made at some point. The Committee agreed this is a project worth pursuing and agreed to recommend that the City Council move forward with it. The Committee voted unanimously to send the Council a letter of support. Peter will assist Ross with writing the letter.

4. The Committee discussed the presentation made by SEDCO at an earlier meeting and whether a similar organization model would be appropriate for South Portland. The Committee supports the creation of a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation to lead the economic development effort for the City. The Committee discussed the need to have a check-in with City Council and recommend the creation of such an entity before the budget process begins. It was agreed that Josh would initiate placing this on a workshop agenda sometime in February. The Committee will invite Karen Martin of SEDCO to make a presentation on that organization to the City Council.
5. Ross reminded the group that the process of hiring a branding consultant has been delayed for a couple months and the Committee should invite the two finalists for interviews. The Committee agreed to invite them to the January meeting and will make a decision that night on the final scope of services.
6. Josh presented the Committee a draft meeting schedule for 2017 and it was agreed upon by consensus. There was no interest in changing the meeting start time; it will remain 6:00 p.m.
7. The final item was a Committee roundtable discussion. Bruce stated that there is a lot of opportunity for the City to support business development in the west end. There are many people who want to be entrepreneurs, but need some support. The Committee again thanked Bill for his service.
8. Adjournment – Motion by Bushey seconded by O'Brien to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. All in favor.