



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CITY OF HAMMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD ON FEBRUARY 1ST, 2016

The Hammond Economic Development Commission held a meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the office of Planning and Development, located at 5925 Calumet Avenue, Room 315, Hammond, Indiana.

Members Present

President, Richard Blastic
Vice President, Bonnie Henry
Secretary, John Vezmar
Attorney, Nicole Bennett
Commissioner, Monica Rubio
Commissioner, Victor Franco

There was a quorum.

Others Present

Councilman Markovich
Executive Director of Planning and Development, Phil Taillon
Recording Secretary, Gabriela Gallegos

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Blastic at 9:00 a.m.

II. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There was no conflicts of interest declared.

III. Communications

There were no communications.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubio to approve the minutes as submitted from June 1, 2015 meeting; Commissioner Franco seconded it. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

V. Old Business

There was no old business to report.

VI. New Business

The Commission elected its officers:

A motion was made to retain Richard Blastic as President by Ms. Henry and was seconded by Ms. Rubio. There were no other nominations. The vote passed unanimously (6-0).

A motion to retain Bonnie Henry as Vice President was made by Ms. Rubio and was seconded by Mr. Blastic. There were no other nominations. The vote passed unanimously (6-0).

A motion was made to retain John Vezmar as Secretary by Ms. Henry and was seconded by Ms. Rubio. There were no other nominations. The vote passed unanimously (6-0).

Ms. Henry and Mr. Franco were both reappointed to serve in the Hammond Economic Development Commission for an additional four years. Congratulations Commissioners!

Executive Director of Planning and Development, Phil Taillon, then gave the Commissioners an update of the economic development highlights, news and upcoming events. Mr. Taillon added that 18th Street Brewery is anticipating to have their grand opening on Friday, February 5, 2016.

Also discussed were the following:

- **Oxbow Landing** Byway Brewing will be opening on Friday, February 12, 2016. The Hampton Inn is expecting to open late February or early March. The three-story office building's structure is up and is progressing rapidly.
- **Sports Complex (Former Walmart building on 165th Street)** This site is currently under negotiations with Walmart but no agreement has been reached. However, there are plans to submit an offer soon. An application was submitted to HUD for a Section-108 Loan for this project and are currently waiting to hear back from HUD. The estimated cost for this recreation center may reach \$15 million. The facility could include a fitness center and or a walking track for residents to use.
- **Starbucks & Dunkin Donuts** are scheduled to start their projects soon.

- **Robertsdale Development** Walmart has not signed a document, which is holding the project back. Ross and I-Hop are potential tenants for this site. The Spot Liquor Store will be demolished and reconstructed soon.
- **Smith Chevrolet (6405 Indianapolis Boulevard)** The vacant building to the north was demolished to aid in the expansion of Smith Chevrolet.
- **The Hammond Police Department Garage** will relocate from its present location at 5925 Calumet Avenue to 5808 Hohman Avenue.
- **City Hall** may potentially move its location to Downtown Hammond.
- **Buildings up for Demolition**
 - FOP building (Mahoney Drive)
 - Former JC Penny (5137 Hohman Avenue)
 - Building on (165th Street and Kennedy)

Further Discussion:

- President Blastic shared his beautification plans for Huhtamaki on Indianapolis Blvd.
- Commissioner Vezmar asked about the plans for Carson's on 165th Street. Mr. Taillon stated that the City is currently in litigation with the previous owner of the property and are working with the new owner to possibly reach a resolution this year.
- Commissioner Franco suggested to have the area between Carson's and the former Walmart building cleaned up to beautify the zone and make it look more presentable.

VII. Public Expression

- Councilman Markovich commented on the litigation with Woodmar.

VIII. Call for Adjournment

A call for adjournment was made by Vice President Henry and was seconded by Commissioner Rubio. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). The meeting of the Hammond Economic Development Commission adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Approved and signed this _____ day of _____ 2016.

John Vezmar, Secretary

Richard Blastic, President

Gabriela Gallegos, Recording Secretary