

TOWN OF DERRY

Town Council Meeting
Derry Municipal Center

November 14, 2006
Tuesday 7: 30 pm

Member Present:

Chairman Brian Chirichiello
Councilor Ferrante
Councilor Reisdorf
Councilor Bulkley
Councilor Coyle
Councilor Dowling
Councilor Fairbanks

Staff Present:

Town Administrator Marcoux
Town Clerk Denise Neale
Called to Order at 7:30 pm

Salute to Flag, Notice of Fire Exits & Handicap Access

Roll Call-Present: Fairbanks, Reisdorf, Dowling, Coyle, Bulkley, Ferrante, and Chirichiello

Chairman's Report

Moment of Silence for Carol Madden, Parks & Recreation, and Norma Sabella a former State Rep. and School Board Member. Both passed away over the weekend.

Thanksgiving Day Parade will be on November 25th. The Derry Village Rotary will be collecting can goods from the citizens along the route to donate to the Soup Kitchen.

Eleanor Sarccione has stepped down from the Conservation Commission.

Town Administrators Report

Reminders: Nov 15 –17th NHMA annual conference
Nov 23-24th Town Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 4th Goals Session 2007 Workshop Town Council

Memorial Service for Carol Madden will be Monday 11/20 @ 10 a.m. at St Joseph's Church in Salem. Donations, in memory of Carol, may be made to the Derry Recreation TimberWolves c/o Derry Parks & Recreation, 31 W Broadway.

A Council volunteer is still needed to attend a Girl Scout Court of Honor on Nov 19th. Please let Sheila know if you are available.

The Town Clerk's Office will be instituting a new program through VitalChek, where the office can accept debit cards for payment at no cost to the Town, there is a convenience fee to the customer. Citizens will also be able to order Vital Records online through VitalChek.

Next Monday there will be a meeting with the state on the MAPP System for vehicle registration. There will be no difference to the customers it will be a staff computer change.

You have all received a copy of Goals 2006 for Council and Staff that lists what has been accomplished. The staff held their Goals 2007 meeting today and it was very productive. *Council GOALS 2007 Work Session December 4th*.

We have received a letter of apology from the ECP Digital Services relative to the incorrect printing of the tax rate on the bills. *Bill reduced to postage only*

The December Town Council meeting schedule should be one meeting as there has been in the past. The meeting should be 12/19/2006.

Councilor Ferrante- Lighting of the Christmas tree with Santa will be at 5:15pm on Nov 25th. There will be Holly the Trolley traveling storytelling with Adele for the children.

New Business

06-129 Economic Development Plan

Town Administrator Marcoux gave a summary of his plan for Economic Development. Highlighted initiative funding alternatives 1-5. His suggestion is alternative #4 (hire an employee and work with outside agencies)

Open public Discussion

Mike Gill, Warner Hill Rd- Agrees with using the DEDC for Economic Development. Has a formula that could be used to weigh the benefit of whether to hire an employee based on the tax rate or continue with current funding of DEDC.

Grant Benson, East Derry Rd – Has been a member of the DEDC for 10+ years. Spoke in support of the DEDC and Jack Dowd. Council needs to consider Mr. Dowd's experience in the town. Suggests to let DEDC run for 1 year, then decide.

Paul Hopfgarten, Hampstead Rd- Stated he's not sure if there would be an increase in business in Derry. It has been stated that Derry is a "Bedroom Community". Feels Council should take a hiatus on Economic Development funding for FY07 and decide which track it will choose before making a commitment. Also stated a "mixed approach" would be more expensive and only so much economic development can be obtained under current zoning.

Jane Tuerck, co-owner Derry Depot Steak House - gave summary of how DEDC assisted in the starting of their business and other areas that the DEDC has helped in the downtown area. DEDC encourages new business and supports existing businesses.

Dennis Wilson, Derry Village - Suggested Council should develop a plan and approve a marketing plan first. Then bring it into the budget session. Council should not be in a rush to make a decision.

Carl Accardo, Olesen Road- Believes in public/private partnerships and that a Council member should be a non-voting authority and appointed to work with the DEDC, and the Town Administrator should be kept informed of DEDC activities. Also, the DEDC should be more informative with the public.

John Burtis, Lorrie Rd - Asked that his letter to Council is read into the minutes of the meeting (attached Appendix A). Feels the DEDC website is shameful.

Maureen Rose, Windham Rd - Supports a Town employee being hired for accountability and thinks that the Council should do nothing at this time.

Barry Cahoon, Field Rd., VP DEDC - He joined the DEDC to find ways to reduce the taxes in Derry. Gave his business background as well as his residence background and his tax payments to the Town. Believes multi-housing is what costs the taxpayers for school portion. Website for DEDC is derryh.org

Al Dimmock, High St - Questioned the Community Development Director position, what does he do? Doesn't believe we need DEDC. Can't trust them because they won't give the public information on finances.

John Langone, Tsienneto Rd - Director of DEDC for 7 years. DEDC is a private non-profit corporation. Asked Council to support DEDC.

Joel Olbricht, Colony Brook Lane - President of DEDC. The DEDC does have a for-profit arm LLC. It is a real estate building that operates bringing rental income in which the income funds the DEDC budget. Spoke on the DEDC's development of goals and the need to have the contract signed. On December 7th, there will be a DEDC meeting for the Economic Development of Derry, all are invited to attend. Spoke in favor of Jack Dowd as President of DEDC.

Mike Driscoll, Fox Run Rd, Owner of Precision Tool & Die - Gave a history of how the DEDC solicited his business to come to Derry. The DEDC assisted his business. Doesn't see negatives in the DEDC regard.

JL Sweeney, DHRA Chair - Believes his board does have the time and resources available to help and work with the DEDC. Doesn't agree a Town Employee would be easy to work with and would be a rodent cost to the town.

Jack Dowd, Sundial Dr - DEDC Executive Director, is working on a marketing plan. Agrees the DEDC website needs to be revamped. Gave an overview of the 20 volunteers that work for the DEDC and a brief history of the development of the DEDC. We have not been without Economic Development ever. The DEDC has continued to work through its problem, which happened this summer. We are not able to divulge information, as the investigation is ongoing. Whatever the choice the Council cannot do nothing. Asked why the plan given to the Council 3 months ago was not made public. Feels over the next few years Economic Development is going to be positive.

Bernie Resnick, Arrowhead Rd-Member of DEDC - Gave an overview of the Kendall Pond Project and the amount of time it took to develop (18 months). It takes a lot of help from members of DEDC to conduct Economic Development.

James Zaniboni, Stark Rd - Spoke on the necessity of a marketing plan. It should include medical and dining entities.

Fred Tompkins, Brookview Dr - Gave an overview of the past history of the DEPC and the DEDC and their development. Town Council will have to compromise on a plan for DEDC.

Joseph DeCarolis, Humphrey Rd - Accountability is what has upset the taxpayers with the DEDC. Need to have someone accountable to Town. But we must keep competitive with other communities.

Mike Duval, Field Rd-5 year member as DEDC Director - Supports DEDC. Doesn't agree with hiring a Town employee because of the economic cost and the return on investment of one to three years.

Brad Alderfer, Homestead Dr -10 year Director of DEDC. Is not interested in the 4th alternative for the Economic Development initiative. Council needs to realize that a marketing plan and website are not free. There's an added cost to the town. Accountability can be obtained with the DEDC in an agreement.

Maureen Rose, Windham Rd - Would like to see how much money has been given to the DEDC in the last 17 years, and how much in taxes that we have collected from the businesses brought in by DEDC. Would like a financial breakdown.

Al Dimmock, High St- would like to know the real cost of providing monies to the DEDC. Doesn't feel the DEDC can handle their monies.

Bernie Resnick - The Kendall Pond Rd project brought in \$177,000 in the sale, the money was used for a revolving loan for businesses at \$25,000 each. When purchasing the land on Broadway we borrowed \$75,000 from a member of the DEDC at no interest.

Paul Hopfgarten, Hampstead Rd - Has financial concerns and where are we going to in the future. Plan should be done already by the DEDC. Let's see what they can do if it succeeds then hire them.

Motion to close Public Discussion by Councilor Bulkley, Second by Councilor Ferrante.

Council Discussion

Councilor Coyle - gave statements on the amount of income the DEDC has received over the past 18 months and stated the current financial situation of the DEDC. Believes that in 6 months they will be insolvent. The DEDC states that they are the expert in Economic Development and have brought in \$313,000, then why has Londonderry done \$5M in the same amount of time. Russ Marcoux did not approve that position as was quoted and he was not consulted regarding that position. Gave more information on different aspects of the DEDC's production. The Town Administrator has given Council a recommendation and we should follow it.

Councilor Fairbanks - would like to point out that the \$25,000 went to the investors and lenders, this information obtained from her meeting with the DEDC. The monies were to be utilized to further the commercial and industrial tax base. The LLC owns 6 West Broadway, if that building were going to be sold who would get the profit?

Councilor Ferrante - would like to know if the councilors are interested in moving forward with Economic Development. Several different processes are before us to move forward. Her personal opinion, does not want to hire someone in-house at this time. Does not see where we could find someone that knowledgeable who isn't going to cost the Town more.

Chairman Chirichiello - his opinion is option #4. Thinks the council should wait on hiring someone until March. Put into next year's budget. Tired of hearing negatives on DEDC. Feels the DEDC plays an important role in Economic Development. They should not be shut out.

Councilor Ferrante - "Sometimes its better to do nothing instead of doing something without a plan". Also need to develop a plan to move forward.

Councilor Reisdorf - wanted to clarify some of the statements that were made by the DEDC. Wants to see a job description and see what's out there for an Economic Development Director. Maybe the Town should continue with DEDC until council can look at others. (Inaudible)

Councilor Dowling – Thanked the speakers for their input. She quoted Fred Thompkins, who said, the Town makes the Plan, the DEDC works for and with the Town. Article X, Dissolution: In the event of dissolution of this Corporation, or in the event it shall cease to carry out the objects and purposes herein set forth, all business property and assets of the Corporation shall be distributed to the Town of Derry. In no event shall any of the assets or property, in the event of dissolution thereof, go or be distributed to the members. However, nothing herein shall prohibit the Corporation for paying its just debts. She believes we need Economic Development and feels it is very important. She's not saying don't hire an Economic Development Director. "Stop doing what you're doing with negative comments."

Councilor Bulkley - He also thanked the speakers for their input on Economic Development. He wanted to clarify things from his point of view. He believes that Economic Development needs to happen right now and in the future. Stated that 20 yrs ago Derry was known as a business unfriendly town. Today it is a Business Friendly Town. An Economic Development Director should be included with a number of organizations. Doesn't agree with a new hire for less than \$100,000. Hire the DEDC give them a specific contract and guidelines to follow if it doesn't work out in 12 months he will agree to go in another direction. Gave examples of what how the DEDC has been a liaison for the Town. He then responded to some of Councilor Coyle's discussion.

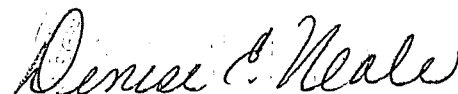
Councilor Coyle corrected his statement brought to his attention by Councilor Bulkley's response.


Motion by Councilor Bulkley to extend the meeting. (No second)

Motion by Councilor Reisdorf to Adjourn, second by Councilor Dowling

Adjourned 10:10 p.m.

**Note: There was: No Public Forum – non agenda items
No Council Requests/Open discussion**


Denise E. Neale, Town Clerk


Date