

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Economic Vitality Commission

5:30 PM
 February 16, 2022

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Alternate Meeting Format: On March 6, 2020 the Mayor declared a civil emergency due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 24, 2020 the Governor issued Proclamation 20-28 relating to the COVID-19 emergency and open public meetings. The proclamation has been extended. Due to these factors, the meeting was held using a remote meeting platform.

Commissioners Present:

Kathy McCorry, Chair
 Jon Edwards, Vice Chair
 Thomas Brown
 Joan Probala
 Tom Rogers
 Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman
 Chris Reichley, Alternate

Administration/Staff:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development
 Manager
 Benton Coblenz, Economic Development
 Coordinator
 Rachel Turpin, City Attorney

Commissioners Not Present (Excused):

Therese Garcia
 Art Freas, Alternate
 Anjali Remme, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

MCCORRY called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

- a) Commission Membership

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of January 19, 2021
 APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Clemens, Executive Director of the Downtown Issaquah Association, introduced himself to the Economic Vitality Commission.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Business License Code Update, (D)***Presented by:**Rachel Turpin, City Attorney**Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

Turpin and Davis Hayes gathered input from the Commissioners on the chapter of Issaquah Municipal Code relating to business licenses.

Commissioners provided the following input on the chapter and possible changes:

- Commissioners were split on whether additional qualifications should be put in place, but that a robust appeals process should definitely be put in place.
- Commissioners felt that the current list of businesses that are exempt from the requirement to obtain an Issaquah business license was logical and did not see fit to recommend additional exemptions.
- On the question of whether penalties for violation of the business license chapter should be civil or criminal, commissioners were agreed that penalties should be civil.
- On the appeals process, Commissioners felt that the process should be handled by an independent Hearing Examiner.
- On the grounds for revocation of a business license, Commissioners felt that – while the intent to protect the health and safety of the community was venerable – they worried that language around “morals” and “allowing criminal activity” was too vague. It was suggested that wording such as “take reasonable steps to prevent” would be preferable.

b) **Commercial Real Estate Market, (I)***Presented by:**Tom Rogers, Commissioner*

Rogers presented about trends and recent developments in the regional and local commercial real estate market, including effects from the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

b) **Business Retention and Recruitment, (D)***Presented by:**All Commissioners*

Commissioners reviewed updates to the SWOT Analysis originally conducted by the Commission in October 2021.

REPORTSc) **Business Openings, Closures, & Industry Trends, (D)***Presented by:**All Commissioners*

Commissioners and staff reported on potential and planned business openings, closures, and trends that they have witnessed or heard about.

City Council Report Out, (I)*Presented by:**Benton Coblenz, Economic Development Coordinator*

Davis Hayes gave updates about recent and planned City Council and Administration business relating to the Commission's work.

2022 Schedule, (I)

Presented by:

Benton Coblentz, Economic Development Coordinator

Davis Hayes reported on the Commission's tentative 2022 workplan, future agenda items, and solicited feedback from the Commissioners.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCCORRY updated the Commission on changes to State and King County public health mandates.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 16, 2021.

INQUIRIES

Please contact Jen Davis Hayes at (425) 837-3414 or jenh@issaquahwa.gov.

Note: Times listed for meetings topics are approximate and items are subject to change.

(A) Action, (D) Discussion, (I) Information