

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Economic Vitality Commission**

6:00 PM
December 13, 2023

MINUTES

Watershed Science Center, 125
W Sunset Way

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Chris Reichley, Chair
Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman, Vice Chair
Thomas Brown (excused)
Jennifer Larson
(Excused)
Joan Probala
Kymberly Lee
AJ Taylor
Christy Garrard
(excused)
Landon Halverson (virtual)

Administration/Staff:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development
Manager
Farel Otieno, Economic Development
Coordinator

Art Freas, Alternate
(arrived at 6:34 PM)
Nicoleta Mocanu, Alternate
(Excused)
Anuradha Tadepalli, Alternate (moved to
regular position)

Please note, this agenda also serves as the special meeting notice pursuant to RCW 42.30.080.

The Economic Vitality Commission meeting will be recessed at approximately 7:00 PM for a social gathering that includes other invitees.

CALL TO ORDER

REICHLEY called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of November 15, 2023 – Correction for law firm mentioned should be Hillis Clark, not Lewis & Clark. TAYLOR motioned, PROBALA seconded to approve the minutes with corrections made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Economic Development Action Plan - Metrics & Short-Term Outcomes (D)**

Presented by:

Economic Development staff

Davis Hayes presented on the short term EDAP outcomes and how we are going to measure. In general, our approach is to remove barriers and provide resources and opportunities for businesses to grow. Commissioners discussed the desire to have real life stories and impacts/outcomes in addition to metrics. Additional data will be collected in the business survey next year. In addition, staff will begin to present data quarterly to the EVC for discussion.

- a) **Economic Vitality Commission Annual Report (A)**

Presented by:

Chris Reichley, Chair

Updates were given by REICHLEY. In his report, he stated that this year's main project and monthly agenda item for the EVC was the drafting of an updated Economic Development Action Plan, with commissioners participating in the entire process. Additionally, the Commissioners made contributions to the pioneer program and comprehensive plan. The Business Leadership Forum was successfully arranged with the help of the EVC, and as a result, it is scheduled to take place annually. In the report, the EVC volunteers were also thanked for their hard work.

TADEPALLI motioned and LEE seconded to approve the Annual Report and submit to City Council. Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Industry Trends, Business Openings & Closures (D)

Presented by:

All Commissioners

Blazing and Bagel opened in the former Fifty5 Sunset location.

Newly opened Sola Salon in the Highlands is busy and attracting more people in the area.

Reports - City Council, Commission Committees (I)

Presented by:

All Commissioners & Staff

Davis-Hayes updated the group on the next steps of the Pioneer program and Business survey that is schedule for 2024.

2023 Schedule (I)

Presented by:

Chris Reichley, Chair

Commissioners reviewed potential 2024 agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners expressed interest in joint meeting with Environmental Commission to discuss Issaquah Climate Action Plan and how businesses can be supported to be more sustainable. Also, interest in transportation (roads) is an interest.

MEETING RECESS from 7:20 – 8:05 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

The next regular meeting is currently scheduled for January 17, 2024 but will be rescheduled to January 16, 2024 due to Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh, a Sikh holiday.

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

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