

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
Economic Development Committee
JANUARY 18, 2023 - 10:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

• ROLL CALL

Lee Eagles	<u> X </u>
Mitch Bernstein	<u> X </u>
Robert Lange	<u> X </u>
Michael Decicco	<u> ABSENT </u>
William Laudien	<u> X </u>
Anthony Scuzo	<u> X </u>
Anthony Pellegrino	<u> X </u>
Ken Baulderstone	<u> X </u>

FLAG SALUTE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT – PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY PROVIDED BY SENDING COPIES OF THE NOTICE OF MEETING TO TWO NEWSPAPERS, THE ASBURY PARK PRESS AND THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY. THE NOTICE WAS POSTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK AND ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

REGULAR MEETING

NOMINATION FOR CHAIRPERSON for the year 2023:

No nomination was made for Chairperson, for the year of 2023, at this time.

NOMINATION FOR VICE CHAIRPERSON for the year 2022:

No nomination was made for Vice Chairperson, for the year of 2023, at this time.

2. Open Discussion among Member for the Good of the Committee

The Economic Development Committee began the Reorganization meeting by choosing not to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 2023 year until the end of the meeting.

Former Vice Chairperson, for the 2022 year, Mitch Bernstein led a discussion explaining that there has been a lot of conversation about how the Economic Development Committee should move forward in its' role to obtain economic development within the Township of Ocean.

Mitch Bernstein discussed that the Township Committee feels the Economic Development Committee should take on more of a "sales role."

Mitch Bernstein expressed to the Township Committee that he is not interested in soliciting business for the Township of Ocean. Mitch Bernstein expressed that if there was any member on the Economic Development Committee who would be interested in taking on that sales-oriented role, he would still be willing to chair the Economic Development Committee.

Lee Eagles expressed to the Township Committee that he also is not interested in soliciting business for the Township of Ocean.

Bob Lange discussed that there are Realtors, and Agents, within the Township who could solicit business for the Township and he is not interested in performing that role either.

Diane Ambrosio discussed that this position from the Township Committee stems from the fact when individuals are looking for property opportunities within the Township, they reach out to her directly, as they are looking for an

immediate response. Diane Ambrosio discussed that when these calls come in it is usually the realtor calling on behalf of the group interested in the property.

Ken Baulderstone discussed an example of how he believes the Economic Development Committee should be operating moving forward with the Thirsty Mallard lot. Ken Baulderstone discussed that the ideal situation would be that the Economic Development Committee would determine some prospective organizations who might be interested in the property, and then approach those groups.

Lee Eagles discussed that the Economic Development Committee could target different industries, develop a letter that discusses the Township’s real estate and send that out to the different identified organizations.

Anthony Pellegrino inquired if that would be sufficient for the Township Committee, and the active role the Township is looking for the Economic Development Committee to take.

Ken Baulderstone discussed that yes, the goal with the few pieces of real estate the Township has left is to determine organizations that might be interested.

Ken Baulderstone also discussed that the Township has approved the growing of Cannabis within the Township. The organizations with the CRC conditional cannabis licenses are another example of groups the Economic Development Committee could reach out to.

Ken Baulderstone discussed that if the Township could have multiple cultivators and manufacturers in the Township it would create jobs, and a solid revenue stream that would supplement the property tax that the Townships’ residents pay.

Ken Baulderstone discussed that any organization given a license for the Cultivation/Manufacture of cannabis within the Township is vetted by both the CRC and the Township itself.

A discussion was held about the confidentiality needed when dealing with certain prospective organizations that may be interested in property within the Township. The Township feels that at this point the role of the Economic Development Committee would be to bring prospective organizations to the Township to have the initial conversation about their interest, and then the relationship between the Township and that prospective organization would develop from there.

Former Chairperson, for the 2022 year, Lee Eagles inquired whether anyone in the group felt they could meet the role as explained from the Township, or if the group would like to pause for the time being.

As a group, the Economic Development Committee determined that it would be best to take a break from meeting and return to meetings if there is a need at some point in time.

Discussion of Meeting Dates – 2023

No future meeting dates were established at this time.

Motion to Open for Public Comment:

No public was present at the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Former Chairman Eagles made a motion to adjourn. Mitch Bernstein seconded the motion.

All in Favor: _____X_____ Opposed _____NONE_____

Signed and Submitted:

Diane B. Ambrosio, Municipal Clerk

Date