ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MINUTES – Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 3, 2022, 5:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers, City Hall

ATTENDEES: Mayor Caggiano, Council Member Panioto, Commissioners Mills, Hick, Schmelder, Cyr, Rasmussen-Tuller, Zammett
Goldwasser (online)

ABSENT: - - -

STAFF PRESENT: Justin Malley, Executive Director; Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator; Dawn Nielsen, Marketing and PR Specialist; Andrew Armstrong, Assistant City Planner

GUESTS: Sabrina Trocchi, President/CEO, Wheeler Clinic

I. Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. Public Participation

Charles Talmadge, Development Planning Solutions, announced that the closing for Parcel 10 of Centre Sq. took place yesterday and he provided an update.

III. **Commissioner Schmelder made a motion to accept the minutes of January 6, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller. All commissioners present voted in favor and the minutes were accepted.**

IV. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Schmelder made a motion to file the Consent Agenda seconded by Commissioner Cyr. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller made a motion to proceed to Item VIII. C. Downtown Committee, seconded by Commissioner Cyr. All present voted in favor – motion passed.

VIII. Any Other Business

C. Downtown Committee

Sabrina Trocchi, President/CEO at Wheeler Clinic, provided an update on their proposed plans.

- She confirmed that their commitment to Bristol remains strong and they provide services in every Bristol school.
- She provided some statistics on the needs of the Bristol community.
- Other options were reviewed. One was no longer available and the others did not meet the correct parameters.
- They have looked at opportunities for change. They changed the footprint, shifted the location and reduced the parking area.
- She reported that this decision is timely for various reasons.

Justin Malley reviewed the site plan. Mayor Caggiano added that Bristol Health has indicated verbally that they are willing to share their parking area as well during the off hours.
Dr. Trocchi and Justin Malley answered questions.

Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller made a motion to approve the use of an approximately 0.81-acre property generally encompassing "Parcel 1" and "Parcel 2" as indicated on the map known as *Concept Plan – Hope Street Subdivision, February 2, 2022*, for design and development of a "City Green" public gathering area pending State approval. Commissioner Goldwasser seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Commissioner Schmelder made a motion to authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Wheeler Health for the purchase and development of an approximately 1.35-acre property known as "Parcel 4" and a portion of "Parcel 3" as shown on the map *Concept Plan – Hope Street Subdivision, February 2, 2022*, for the purchase price of $600,000 and to refer the matter to the Bristol City Council and the Office of Corporation Counsel for review pending State approval. Commissioner Goldwasser seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

V. New Business

A. Marketing Updates

Dawn Nielsen distributed the latest press release which addresses the upcoming move to a swing space during City Hall renovations. She discussed the meeting space that will be available. Justin added that we are working on downtown parking due to the construction of parcel 10.

B. Workforce Development Update

Justin provided an update on the partnerships that have been established.

C. Grants/CDBG Report

Dawn Leger reported that 15 applications have been received as of Monday requesting a total of $450,000. The first public hearing is on February 14th at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers. She needs the Conflict of Interest forms back before February 14. Please complete and return. She distributed a summary of grants activity.

D. Sessions Building Update

Justin reported that $50,000 has been approved to cover incoming costs of running the building. He summarized the incoming bills and costs. His approval from this board was from January 1st forward. He has some bills from December and the current building owners have not paid them. Mayor Caggiano suggested we ask our legal team about those remaining bills which cover December service. Discussion.

E. Project Status Updates – Justin asked if there were any questions.

Some activity has been noted: The old gas station on Route 6 has been demolished; KindCare is beginning activity at their site. Activity has begun on the Broad St. location.

F. ARPA Update

Mayor Caggiano reported that we are at 76 million dollars in requests. Approximately 36 million are from for-profit businesses. Justin added that in addition to helping other businesses we are also applying.

- Dawn Leger has applied for funds to assist in managing brownfield projects.
- For the potential of a parking structure on Centre Sq.
- For Centre Square infrastructure.
- Together with the Public Works department we applied for three (3) streetscape projects: North Main St. (the portion in front of Centre Sq.), Riverside Avenue, and Route 72/Park St.

Mayor Caggiano added that there are three divisions or "buckets" – City projects, for profit, and non-profit.

VI. New Business by Commissioners

Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller would like to encourage other board members to reach out to the Council members regarding the Wheeler project.

Commissioner Mills mentioned the Bristol Press article today about the light at the Memorial Boulevard School. It will be an amazing project. They will be on or under budget and on time.

VII. Old Business by Commissioners

Commissioner Cyr wanted to thank the Downtown Committee for getting Wheeler back to the table. He was pleased with the plan.

VIII. Any Other Business

A. City Council Member Report

Council Member Panioto had no report. He appreciates all the work everyone has done.

B. Policy Committee

Commissioner Schmelder reported that there was no action at today's meeting. Funds had been awarded from the Cares Act to For Goodness Sake which is closing. They will need to decide how to reallocate those funds.

D. Budget Committee

Commissioner Cyr reported that the budget request remains flat except for contractual items. The way the insurance is broken down is being reviewed as some of the salaries are covered by the federal government but as yet not the insurance. Some of David's work may need to be outsourced so the professional fees portion has been increased. We have achieved our goals for 2021-2022 year. Justin had a meeting today with the Comptroller.

Commissioner Hick made a motion to approve the ECD fiscal year 2022-2023 budget request as recommended by the Budget Committee on January 12, 2022 and submit to the Board of Finance for action. Commissioner Cyr seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Zammett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hick. All present voted in favor – meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary