

Florence Twp Economic Development Committee Minutes 5/2/23

Florence, New Jersey

The Florence Township Economic Development Committee held a regular meeting on the above date in the header at the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting in person.

The meeting was called to order by Economic Development Chair, Katie Wittkamp at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Katie Wittkamp, Marvin Wainwright, Joan Geary, Lisa Filippine, Mike Rinaldi, Melissa Bond, Joseph Bongiorno, Councilman Nick Haas and Economic Development Liaison, Martin Eckert Jr.

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie, Mark Remsa

Absent:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of March 7, 2023

Motion of Wittkamp, seconded by Geary to approve the minutes as submitted.

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Local Business Breakfast Event:** Marty shared a layout of the proposed event flyers and information about the online RSVP that is being designed. The goal will be to canvas the community, inviting all local business owners to attend the breakfast and information session. Various speakers coordinated by Mark Remsa will provide valuable information our local business community and networking opportunities will be offered after the speakers have concluded. Marty & Katie Wittkamp will discuss details for the event. The event flyer and RSVP will be uploaded to the township website and Facebook. All committee members are encouraged to share the flyer and invite business owners to attend.
- **Local Business Spotlight:** Mayor Wilkie shared that the vision to communicate with our local businesses brought the concept of creating an informational survey to further learn about businesses in our community. This data allowed for periodic local business spotlights to be designed and shared on the township website and Facebook. Marty took on the initial push and has met with several businesses. Mayor Wilkie encouraged committee members to take part in meeting business owners and providing feedback to develop future spotlights.

COMMITTEES

- No new information provided at time of meeting.

Florence Twp Economic Development Committee Minutes 5/2/23

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Mitsubishi Electric Trane:** On Wednesday, April 26th the executives and management staff of the newly completed, Mitsubishi Trane facility will be hosting a welcome event/ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling the new facility. Over 400,000 sq feet is occupied by Mitsubishi Trane with another portion sublet to a logistics company. More information and details to be provided in May after the event is held.
- **NEXUS Legislative Committee Meeting:** This Thursday, Mayor Wilkie will participate via Zoom presenting updates on Florence Township to attendees. Mayor Wilkie has participated in this meeting in the past and it allows participants the opportunity to learn about various components of how our local government and community continue forward in 2023 and plans for the future.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Boyd's Pharmacy & FTFD Sponsored Easter Egg Hunt:** On Saturday, April 1st the annual Easter egg hunt will be returning to Wilkie Park. Boyd's Pharmacy and fire department personnel will prepare and hide over 1,500 eggs for children between the ages of 0-10 years old to participate. This is an exciting event that brings the community together for a great time.
- **Sub Culture Artisan Ale:** The committee discussed there had been some comments within the community referencing the soon to be opening of the brewery located on W 2nd Street. Marty will look into specific information about the business and will report in May.
- **Explanation of Pilots:** In 2020 Mayor Wilkie provided a power point presentation outlining the PILOT program concept. The mayor created an updated presentation and provided the overview to the economic committee for review and feedback. This new version provides more in-depth information of the positive impact of the pilots and the total amounts generated and what they support within the municipality.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Small Business Interviews:** Mark Remsa encouraged committee members to interact with local businesses and inquire similarly to the survey information that had been distributed several months ago. Interviews in print or by video will be excellent in promoting small business.
- **Vacant Business Properties:** Mark Remsa will be following up with the committee regarding work done to date about identifying vacant properties. More information to be provided at the May meeting.

Florence Twp Economic Development Committee Minutes 5/2/23

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of public present.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Geary, seconded by Wittkamp – 7:40pm