

Florence Twp Economic Development Committee Minutes 9/5/23

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 minutes reflect the meeting held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

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, Mike Rinaldi, Melissa Bond, Joseph Bongiorno, Richard Popso, Councilman Nick Haas

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie, Martin Eckert Jr.

Absent : Lisa Filippine

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of April 4, 2023

Motion of Haas, seconded by Bongiorno to approve the minutes as submitted.

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Local Business Breakfast Event:** Marty and Katie Wittkamp shared information relating to the progress of the upcoming event. 20 people have responded confirming their attendance and several local business owners have expressed interest in attending. Marty and Katie are following up in an effort to determine a final total. The event has been promoted on the township's website, social media and by visits to local businesses where flyers have been provided. Mark Remsa has finalized the speakers for the event and Marty and Katie have reached out to each regarding arrival and set up times. Committee members were encouraged to attend if available and to continue to promote in and around town.

COMMITTEES

- Local Business Event planning committee provided final details relating to catering of event.

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CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **New Small Business Openings:** The committee observed various businesses that have either opened or will soon open in the coming weeks and months in the township. Social media mentions of the brewery located on W 2nd Street being promoted. Subculture Artisan Ales has been under development since prior to the start of the pandemic and it appears that they will be open to the public very soon. B-Unos (located in Burlington City and Mount Holly) will be opening on Route 130 at the location which was formerly Nooks Pour house and Tina's Tacos. Hiring information has begun to circulate on social media, thus prompting thought that an opening will be in the foreseeable future. No specific date for opening has been announced at this time. At 34 Main Street (Former Roebing Bank) in the Village of Roebing signage has been placed for a real estate office to be established. Members noted that progress seems to be taking place as renovations of the former 84 Lumber property on Route 130 continue. Mayor Wilkie provided that the property once completed will serve as a truck repair business.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Mitsubishi Trane Ribbon Cutting Event:** Marty shared that he as well as councilpersons Ostrander and Marter attended the ribbon cutting event held at Mitsubishi Trane's new distribution center located on River Road. Executives described the facility as one of three hubs in the United States with the others being located in Savannah, Georgia and Mira Loma, California. This 400,000 sq ft facility matches size to the Georgia location, however the Florence facility is equipped with a full training center where every Trane product is on display and in working order to allow employees the opportunity to observe the components as they would be found at a home or business. The group provided tours of the facility and looks forward to getting involved in the community. They currently employ some staff whom reside in Florence Township.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Small Business Interviews:** Marty and Mark Remsa completed several interviews and posted on the townships social media and placed on the Economic Development page of the website. Mayor Wilkie urged members to visit local businesses and interact to learn about them and inquire if they would be interested in being part of a local business spotlight interview. Marty or Mark are happy to assist.
- **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.

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MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of public present.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Wittkamp, seconded by Geary – 7:45pm