

**CITY OF NORWALK
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 3, 2022
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; David Heuvelman; Thomas Livingston; Bryan Meek;
Barbara Smyth; Darlene Young

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski, Director of Business Development and Tourism;
Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community Development

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted.

Ms. Diane Lauricella discussed the item related to the Tree Master Plan Program and asked how these goals compare to the West COG study. She said that \$150,000 is a lot of money and she wants to be sure the study, that was done by professionals, is not being replicated. She asked why they would be replicating the data when the money could be spent on other pressing needs. She said the inventory and canopy assessment seems to be a replication.

There were no other members of the public who wished to comment.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the Minutes of October 6, 2022 Meeting.

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Page 3: She said this was more geared towards families and they were going to close Washington between MLK and Main, Santa will make a big entrance.

**** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE COMMON COUNCIL THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND PLANIT GEO, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 FOR THE TREE MASTER PLAN PROGRAM – INVENTORY AND CANOPY ASSESSMENT. ACCT: 133710 5796 AEC17 (ARPA)**

Ms. Vonashek reviewed the request and said they put out an RFP and interviewed two vendors. They chose PlanIT Geo. She reviewed the scope of work and said there are eight deliverables. If approved, they plan to start this project immediately and complete the tree planting by June 2023.

Additional costs in 2024-2026 would be if they keep the tree plotter tool; however, if they decide not to use it then can extract the data and enter it into the City's GIS system. Ms. Smyth asked how difficult it would be to enter the information into the City's GIS system. Ms. Vonashek said the data is transferable and described the process. She added that it has a plug in that allows a 3D viewer and they may be able to add a column with a link to Google Earth.

Committee members expressed their enthusiasm. Ms. Vonashek expressed her thanks to the Public Works department, Mr. Plotnick, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Torre and Mr. Stowers.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

1. Update on business-related City offered programming, the opening of the Business Development Center, and funding expenditures.

Ms. Godeski reported that they held the ribbon cutting today for the Business Development Center. She described the programs that will be offered there. In addition, they have partnered with SCORE Black Business Alliance, the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the Norwalk Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to provide educational opportunities and technical support.

Ms. Godeski explained that they will offer educational opportunities in English and in Spanish. In addition, if they are unable to help they will be able to point an individual in the direction of somebody who can. She talked about various programs such as the Small Business on Main Street program. To date they have assisted over 80 businesses and have spoken to over 450

businesses over the past three years. In addition, over 75% of the businesses they've assisted have been minority or women owned. They provide connections to local professional providers for legal and tax advice.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kydes said the LDA for Chestnut Street and the Webster Street parking lot will be on future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services