



TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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Minutes: The Economic Development Commission, Town of Hamden, held a **Regular Meeting** on **Tuesday, December 13th** at **5:30pm** via Zoom.

Click the link below to view the recording:

[EDC Regular Meeting December 13th, 2022](#)

Passcode: a9C*rUg1

1. Call to order/Roll call –

Chairman Donald Moses called the meeting to order at 5:35pm. Commissioners in attendance: Director Erik Johnson, Commissioner Tony Delgrego, Commissioner Kenneth Good, Commissioner Howard K Hill, Commissioner Dashone Hughey, Commissioner Dan Smolnik

2. Review and approve minutes of November

Commissioner Donald Moses called a motion to review and approve the minutes from the previous November 13th, meeting; Commissioner Kenneth Good moved the motion and Tony Delgrego seconded the motion

3. Guest Speaker: Nancy Dudchik, President - Hamden Regional Chamber

President Dudchik spoke about the background of the Chamber's governmental affairs committee. President Dudchik and Chairman Moses have been in contact with each other, along with Commissioner Kenneth Good as the liaison, to ensure that an open-door policy is maintained between the Chamber and the Commission to support Hamden's business community.

The Chamber's Governmental Affairs committee have put together a survey for businesses within the Hamden area in order to receive feedback on what type of support these businesses require to recover from the pandemic. The following questions were asked:

- "Was your business adversely affected by the pandemic?" 70% said "Yes"
- "Are you still experiencing losses due to the pandemic?" 54% said "Yes"
- "Did you change your business model during the pandemic?" 80% said "Yes"
- "Was your business forced to close during the pandemic?" 69% said "No"

- “Did you have to lay off employees during the pandemic?” 70% said “No”
- “Were the problems your business experienced due to the supply chain?” 54% said “No”
- “Since the pandemic has eased, do you have a difficult time finding people to fill your positions?” 70% said “Yes”
- “Do you feel there needs to be assistance regarding Hamden small businesses regarding ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) funds for small businesses?” 95% said “Yes”
- “Do you feel there needs to be assistance for Hamden non-profit organizations?” 95% said yes

Each business was asked to rank the following 7 items in the order of most to least important:

1. A community campus, kitchen, warming center & library – \$15.4 million (*Ranked #5*)
2. Early childhood development programs - \$1 million (*Ranked #1*)
3. Grants and tax relief programs for businesses affected by the pandemic - \$1 million (*Ranked #2*)
4. Grants for non-profits - \$1 million (*Ranked #3*)
5. Mentoring programs (*Ranked #4*)
6. Extending sewer lines (*Ranked #6*)
7. Modernizing Whitneyville Library (*Ranked #7*)

**Director Erik Johnson inquired as to the number of businesses that responded to the survey and would like to make sure it is noted that President Dudchik reported close to 60 people have taken the survey so far

4. Chairman Report:

o Business community update – Chairman Donald Moses mentions that awareness on topics such as taxes and employment with large businesses are important to understanding the impact on the economic advances of the town of Hamden. Awareness of how these businesses operate as well as keeping an open line of communication with these businesses is critical.

o Hamden economic alliance – Chairman Moses has had several conversations with Director Erik Johnson and Mayor Lauren Garrett regarding developing alliances with lenders, universities and local businesses in order to create a plan that enhances the economic vitality of Hamden.

o Hamden Economic Revitalization – Chairman Moses emphasized the need for economic impact analysis in order to evaluate Hamden’s economic opportunities. Chairman Moses has opened a line of communication with local universities to assess and identify how EDC can determine the present economic state of the business community and what is required to enhance it.

5. Executive Director Report: Director Johnson and team have been working together to reassemble the town’s community block grant program. \$2 million in funds have been identified in unspent funds that need to be reallocated. Approval and sign off from the human services committee has been received. The final vote on the revised budget with the Legislative Council will occur on December 20th, 2022.

- There is a small business assistance program in which \$385,000 have been identified
- In the works of developing a program in which CDBG dollars matched with ARPA dollars
- \$120,000 in public service grants
- Infrastructure improvements
- Performing a study to ensure better access points for technology in parts of the community

- Affordable housing projects are in the works

High Meadows - New implementation schedule will involve public outreach and engagement. The High Meadows Facebook page or website will be updated regularly with any change

Director Erik Johnson identifies what his team is focusing on; (1) Resource development (2) Planning support (3) Information sharing (4) Workforce

6. Old Business – No old business

7. New Business – No new business

8. Adjournment – Chairman Moses called the meeting to adjourn at 6:17pm

Constant Contact Survey Results

Campaign Name: Governmental Affairs Business Survey

Survey Starts: 264

Survey Submits: 62

Export Date: 12/20/2022 01:49 PM

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Was your business adversely affected by the pandemic?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			45	75%
No			15	25%
Total Responses			60	100%


MULTIPLE CHOICE

If so, are you still experiencing losses?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			31	50%
No			30	49%
Total Responses			61	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Did you have to change your business model during the pandemic?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			49	84%
No			9	15%
Total Responses			58	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Did your business have to close during the pandemic?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			19	31%
No			41	68%
Total Responses			60	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Did your business have to lay off employees?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			19	31%
No			42	68%

Total Responses 61 100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Were the problems you suffered during the pandemic due to supply chain issues?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			27	44%
No			34	55%
Total Responses			61	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Since the pandemic eased, have you had difficulties in finding qualified people to fill positions?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			42	71%
No			17	28%
Total Responses			59	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Do you feel that there is a need for assistance to Hamden's small businesses?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			57	95%
No			3	5%
Total Responses			60	100%

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Do you feel that there is a need for assistance to Hamden's non-profit organizations?

Answer Choice	0%	100%	Number of Responses	Responses Ratio
Yes			53	92%
No			4	7%
Total Responses			57	100%

RANK ORDER

The Town of Hamden will receive \$24mm from the Federal Government, through the American Rescue Plan Act. Please rank the following 1 through 7, 1 being your highest priority:

1 - HIGHEST

RANK
PERCENTAGE
5

2

1

3

4

7

6

Answer Choice	Average Rank	Ranked 1	Ranked 2	Ranked 3	Ranked 4	Ranked 5	Ranked 6	Ranked 7
A community campus on the site of the old middle school, including a new library, a commercial kitchen, a community warming center, a football field and pickleball courts. \$15.4mm. This is the Town's current proposal.	4.61	6 (9%)	4 (6%)	5 (8%)	10 (16%)	17 (27%)	6 (9%)	13 (21%)
Early childhood development programs, including home- and center-based programs. \$1mm.	2.97	17 (27%)	8 (13%)	15 (24%)	11 (18%)	3 (4%)	5 (8%)	2 (3%)
Grants and tax relief to small businesses that experienced financial losses as a result of the pandemic. \$1mm.	2.66	22 (36%)	19 (31%)	7 (11%)	1 (1%)	2 (3%)	3 (4%)	7 (11%)
Grants to nonprofits organizations. \$1mm	3.48	7 (11%)	14 (22%)	12 (19%)	10 (16%)	8 (13%)	9 (14%)	1 (1%)
Mentoring programs, pairing high school students with area businesses.	3.66	5 (8%)	10 (16%)	13 (21%)	15 (24%)	10 (16%)	7 (11%)	1 (1%)
A study of the possibility of extending sewer lines north of Mt. Carmel Avenue. \$250k	5.39	2 (3%)	5 (8%)	4 (6%)	3 (4%)	10 (16%)	16 (26%)	21 (34%)
Updating and modernizing the Whitneyville Library.	5.25	2 (3%)	1 (1%)	5 (8%)	11 (18%)	11 (18%)	15 (24%)	16 (26%)
Total Responses	61							

