

Economic Development Committee

Borough of Hawthorne, New Jersey

Municipal Building

445 Lafayette Avenue

Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

Meeting Minutes: October 20, 2010

Attendance:

Carl Schmidt, Chairman	Present
Frank Coppola	Absent
Daniel Dailey	Absent
Evangeline Gomez	Present
Anthony Spanedda	Present
Victor Terraglia	Present
Councilman John Lane, Council & Chamber Rep	Present
Mayor Richard Goldberg (optional)	Present

Agenda Items:

1. Mayor Goldberg Discussion:

Mayor Goldberg reported on continuing discussions regarding the development of the Merck property and a potential small supermarket anchor tenant. Mayor Goldberg also reported on the brownfields status of the Pyrolac property and a potential purchaser of the tax lien.

2. Downtown Revitalization:

- a. Transit Village - Carl Schmidt reported on two meetings held with the Passaic County Planning Department and borough representatives on September 16, 2010 and October 7, 2010. In the first meeting discussion centered on what role the county could fulfill for Hawthorne in developing a Transit Village plan and in the second meeting the county planning team outlined a planning process to be used in developing the plan elements that would comprise a Transit Village application. The county team agreed to document the process for Hawthorne and provide example documents that could be used in the initial steps of the process.
- b. Sign Ordinance – Victor Terraglia scheduled a work session for September 25, 2010 to formalize the EDC recommendations that will be sent to the Council Ordinance Committee.

3. Vacant Property Sub-committee

- a. Shopper Survey – Evangeline Gomez and Dan Dailey and Frank Coppola conducted and completed the survey, which ended on October 2, 2010. Approximately 300 surveys were submitted. Preliminary results representing about half of the surveys were compiled in a spreadsheet by Tony Spanedda and Carl Schmidt, and were presented at the EDC meeting. The remaining surveys will be compiled over the next week and the full results will be covered at the November 10, 2010 EDC meeting.

- b. Vacant Property Owner contacts – With the completion of the shopper survey, the next step for the sub-committee is to contact vacant property owners to determine how the EDC may be able to help broker a match between the property owners and potential tenants / buyers. Plans will be covered at the November 10 EDC meeting.
4. New Business – Tony Spanedda arranged for an executive representative from a local car dealership to meet with the EDC to discuss potential property sites within the borough for relocation and expansion of the dealership. The dealership representative described what the dealership needs were and several suitable properties were discussed by committee members. Tony Spanedda is following up with the borough to identify all suitable properties that meet the dealership needs.

CJ Schmidt 10-25-2010