

Economic Development Committee

Friday, September 20, 2013

Members Present

Councilors Jon McCallion and Coty Donohue

Staff Present

City Manager Bob Belmore, Director Dave Sharples, EDM Christine Soutter, Code Enforcement representatives Jack Kenyon and Tim Metivier

Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes-August 27, 2013 – Correction made for spelling of Coty Donohue’s name. Minutes approved 2-0

- B. Building Code Enforcement Research
Staff continues to research other enforcement activities and abilities in other communities such as Berlin. Berlin has regular inspections and a Certificate of Compliance procedure. Dave Sharples noted that Somersworth has beefed up the inspection process. City Councilor for Ward 2, Jennifer Soldati, noted things have improved but more work needs to be done with legislation to keep moving forward. A discussion of previous attempts by the City Council to address problem was had. Bob Belmore proposed that a resolution to deal with properties that have become a public nuisance such as 11 Crest Drive would help. A meeting with Senator Watters and other State reps is being proposed for early October to deal with this issue along with other community concerns. It was suggested that our neighboring communities of Dover and Rochester be invited to attend as they have the same struggles. Councilor McCallion asked if there is anything more we can do with the tools we have. Belmore remarked that we have little in our tool box to deal with the issues. Dave Sharples noted that the creation of citizen neighborhood groups can help as well.

- C. Chabot’s Creamery
Chabot’s on Green St. is now owned by the City. Dave Sharples and Christine Soutter met with Jack Peduzzi of the Housing Partnership that would like to do a project in Somersworth if possible. They are looking at a property in downtown but staff also informed him of the Chabot’s Dairy site and he has shown some initial interest. The Housing Partnership has a good reputation and creates both workforce and elderly housing.
A recommendation for a resolution to sell the property was made by Belmore and 2nd by McCallion.

- D. Breton Cleaners
Sharples explained that the City can apply for grants from the EPA and NHDES but not until we own the property. A question was raised as to what would

happen if we took the property but we unable to secure grant funding. It was decided that more conversation needed to be had with the State. Councilor McCallion proposed using the property for parking to pay for some of the cost of monitoring the property.

E. Misc.

Getty Real Estate Trust, owners of the former BP Gas Station downtown, is going to be approached to see if they would be willing to lease or donate the building to the City. They are currently in a long term lease with Lehigh Gas which has been unable to lease the building. Christine Soutter is working with a rep from Lehigh to contact the decision makers at the Getty Real Estate Trust.

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Soutter