

**SPARTA TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2021**

The Sparta Township Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at Sparta Town Hall, 65 Main Street, Sparta, NJ.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll call was taken and present were: Councilman Joshua Hertzberg, Co-Chairperson James Hammond, Mr. Joe Toscano, Ms. Ann Sears and Duffy Brennan.

Members Absent: Ms. Francoeur, Ms. Dilger, Mr. Miner, Mr. Scro, Mr. Finkeldie and Mr. Sylvester

MINUTES:

Mr. Toscano made a motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2020.

Mr. Hammond seconded the motion.

With no further discussion, all voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Hertzberg discussed the proposed Biondo project on Main Street next to their current building, which they are outgrowing. There was an earlier presentation, by the Biondos, to some of the Committee members at a site meeting. Councilman Hertzberg felt it would be a nice addition to Main Street and it's important to redevelop some areas within the Township.

Ms. Sears asked if it was going before the Zoning Board of Adjustment and how many employees there would be.

Councilman Hertzberg replied that the Planning Board would be hearing it and there is expected to be 20 employees.

Ms. Sears confirmed the lot size to be 73,000.

Mr. Toscano questioned if the size of the new building would be comparable to that of the existing building.

Ms. Sears felt the 7,200 sq. ft. new building was good looking and liked that the front of the building was turned to the side like their existing building.

Councilman Hertzberg hoped that this would attract new businesses to come into Town. We certainly don't want to turn away new business.

Ms. Sears added that they want to invest in Sparta and bring in jobs.

Co-Chairman Hammond was cautious about the endorsement and adding a precedent for others.

Councilman Hertzberg replied that the EDC approval of a business is a draw to other businesses and brings jobs to our area.

Mr. Toscano felt this makes people take notice of the Township.

Councilman Hertzberg advised that a new Ordinance was adopted regarding deregulated land by the railroad in the ED zone. It will make it more business conducive.

Ms. Sears asked why this had to be done for the railroad.

Councilman Hertzberg replied that the goal is to allow warehouse businesses along the railroad easier access.

Ms. Sears questioned why the change, couldn't they just apply for a variance.

Councilman Hertzberg replied that it is in black and white now so they don't need a variance.

Councilman Hertzberg advised that the Township is currently working on closing the old dump near the Department of Public Works and adding a solar farm.

Ms. Sears would like to see trail access added.

OLD BUSINESS

Ongoing discussion regarding Highlands, rehabilitation of homes, new businesses and existing issues in Sparta.

Motion to adjourn Mr. Toscano
Second by Co-Chairman Mr. Hammond

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Stevens
Committee Secretary