



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Albany City Hall, Council Chamber
1000 San Pablo Avenue
Thursday, March 3, 2016
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheasty at 5:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Baker, Cain, Cheasty, Guhl, Montagh

Members absent: Charles, Sala

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. February 4, 2016

Moved by Cain, seconded by Montagh to approve the minutes, unanimously approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Almaguer noted previous studies conducted by consultants to analyze the economic development conditions of the City, and inquired if this is something the Committee would like to see updated. Almaguer will provide previous analysis to the Committee for reference.

6. PRESENTATION

6-1. General Plan Update – Receive information regarding update as related to land use element and economic development

City Planner Anne Hersch presented information to the Committee regarding the General Plan Update and policies in the General Plan that discuss economic development and development within the City's commercial areas. The General Plan Update will be reviewed by the Council in April.

7. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

7-1. Albany Chamber of Commerce/Solano Avenue Association Update

Receive information regarding recent discussions between the two organizations and provide any feedback

Tod Abbott, Albany Chamber of Commerce and Committee Member Cain reported that the Chamber and Solano Avenue Association recently discussed the concept of merging. At this point in time the item is not moving forward.

7-2. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Immediate Opportunities Subcommittee
- b. Long Range Planning Subcommittee

Both subcommittees provided updates regarding their recent meetings, with focus on opportunities to enhance commercial areas. There is an interest in a parking structure to facilitate growth. There are also concerns with the City's permit approval process and impacts on new businesses. In April, the Immediate Opportunities Subcommittee meeting will include a conversation with Melanie Mintz, Community Development Director from the City of El Cerrito.

- 7-2.** Advertising on Solar Trash Cans – discuss possible changes to current advertising program
Committee Member Guhl suggested the program be amended to provide the opportunity for businesses to sponsor containers as opposed to advertising on the containers.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting: April 7, 5 pm.

Regular monthly meeting schedule: first Thursday of each month at 5 pm.

April Meeting Agenda Topics:

Discussion with Arts Committee regarding Art in Commercial Areas

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.