

DRAFT
Economic Development Council
APPROVED MINUTES

October 27, 2023
Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building – Conference Room C
710 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
7:30 A.M.

In attendance:

Anna Siefken, Mark Trumbull, Seth Davis Jennifer Bibb, Amy Hrvinak, Matthew Moses Commissioner Flynn

Commission Liaison: Andrew Flynn

Guest: None

Staff: Eric Milliron

- I. **Call to Order:** Eric Milliron called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. **Citizen's Comments:** None.
- III. **Review of September Minutes** – Minutes were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Seth Davis. Seconded by Amy Hrvinak
- IV. **2023 Committee Updates:**
 - a. **Mobility:**
 - i. South Hills Mobility Task Force – This is a partnership of communities working towards a complete mobility landscape in the communities of Mt. Lebanon, Dormont, Castle Shannon and Bethel Park. The Task Force recognizes two common transportation linkages: 1. SR 19 2. LRT/Red Line. The Task Force seeks to enable safe passage for all modes of transportation throughout the walksheds of both arterials.
 1. Tasks – Currently the group is recommending Mt. Lebanon and Dormont explore developing an Active Transportation plan together - if feasible. E. Milliron has put \$80k in the 2024 budget to fund an Active Transportation Plan. This will be part of the budget discussions. Staff also discussed a potential partnership with the Borough of Dormont due to the fact we share many arterial connections and share the PRT Red Line. Additionally, both communities elected officials have made a commitment to enhancing pedestrian safety.
 2. Staff made a high-level presentation to the Commission on the components of an Active Transportation Plan, and reasoning why Mt. Lebanon should make such an investment. Ms. Siefken made comment that Mt. Lebanon should be mindful that Mt. Lebanon ought to be sure it's active transportation planning efforts are triaged and/or front and center in any planning partnerships with other communities.
 3. Staff has submitted an application to USDOT to assist in funding an active transportation plan in the amount of \$80k. The Municipality will be notified spring of 2024 of award status.
 4. Task Force considering meaningful outreach efforts to educate residents about the benefits of active transportation networks to both the economy + individual health.
 - b. **Economic Vitality** – Economic Vitality is always at the core of our mission. It is a shared mission of our local community Main Street non-profit – the Mt. Lebanon Partnership. The Partnership has created an Economic Vitality Committee that will work with members of the EDC to actualize it's objectives. Current objectives identified include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Business/Property Owner Support – We are actively working on application for façade grants in the Uptown District via development of Design Guidelines. Staff has requested \$50k in the 2024 budget to kickstart the façade grant program in Mt. Lebanon.
 - ii. Placemaking – A grant to implement an artistic public lighting project has been submitted to DCED. VU2 Planning is on the horizon once VU1 is substantially complete.
 - iii. Zoning – On hold; however, as part of a Design Guideline refresh within the Mt. Lebanon Partnership, a list of recommendations will be submitted to the Municipality to encourage best-practice ordinance changes to alleviate long-standing challenges experienced by our business owners (i.e. signage restrictions)
 - iv. Baseline Inventory (Post-Covid) of entirety of Uptown + Website Upgrade of Business Tracking – this is complete and the Municipality has maintained impressively low vacancy rates both on the first level + upper levels of our commercial inventory.
 - v. The Mt. Lebanon Partnership Economic Vitality Committee is hosting a networking event at the Marriott. This initiative has been on hold since the pandemic. This is an open forum for business-to-

business connections to strengthen relationships in the Uptown District and educate the business community on the efforts of the Partnership/Municipality.

The EDC discussed the leadership structure of each committee and the following members have been identified as Chairs:

1. **Complete Streets/Mobility – Seth Davis**
2. **Economic Vitality – Jim Bentz.**
 - a. **Bill Callahan**
 - b. **Chris Dwyer**
 - c. **Jeff Weiner**

V. Vibrant Uptown Update – Staff provided an update on Vibrant Uptown.

VI. Commercial Districts Updates – Staff updated the EDC on various updates in our commercial districts.

VII. New Business –

VIII. Adjourn – Seth Davis made a motion to adjourn.