

**Economic Development Council  
MINUTES**

February 23 2024

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, Cate Irvin, Stacey Reibach, Matt Moses Commissioner Siegler

**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 January Minutes** – Minutes were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Mark Trumbull. Seconded by Cate Irvin.
- IV. **2024 Board Realignment:** The EDC discussed dedicated the remaining meetings to discuss offering the newly structured Resiliency Board with recommendations on items for a future work plan. The to be adopted Comprehensive Plan will be the North Star document used for these discussions. Some initial thoughts discussed were:
  1. EVC Strategy for commercial districts
  2. Utilization of AARP Enabling Better Places Resource
  3. South Garage Redevelopment
  4. Business attraction strategies working with Mt. Lebanon Partnership
  5. Policy/Funds to update older building stock (i.e. ADA issues, dated electrical service, etc.)
  6. Post-Pandemic business retention strategies
  7. Innovation – broadly speaking, Mt. Lebanon is fortunate to have a strong commercial foundation to work from, and a great deal of talent within our community and staff. Therefore, we are in an ideal position to innovate/implement policy that can be modeled in other communities.
- V. **2023 Committee Updates:**
  - a. **Mobility:**
    1. Active Transportation plan has been funded and a RFP is being developed by Planning staff. Expected release in Spring 2024 with work to commence shortly thereafter.
  - 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.

- VI. Vibrant Uptown Update** – Staff provided an update on Vibrant Uptown. The project is complete.
- VII. Commercial Districts Updates** – Staff updated the EDC on various updates in our commercial districts.
- VIII. New Business** –
- IX. Adjourn** – Seth Davis made a motion to adjourn.