

Township of West Orange Economic Development Commission –

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Feb. 3, 2022

The Township of West Orange Economic Development Commission met virtually due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.,

The Chairperson read the following statement: This is to inform the general public that this meeting is being held in compliance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975.

Roll Call – Present Absent

Roll Call –	Present	Absent
Chairman John Wayman Henry, III	X	
Mayor Robert Parisi		X
Councilwoman Tammy Williams	X	
Alfred Rosu	X	
Ronald Raymond, DWOA Liaison	X	
Abdur R. Yasin	X	

Council President Susan McCartney and Township Zoning Official Geniece Gary-Adams were in attendance.

4 additional attendees.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by member Abdur R. Yasin

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS - Member Corey Smith resigned. Introduced new Township Council liaison Councilwoman Tammy Williams. Chairman Henry mentioned there were vacancies on the commission and interested parties should submit resumes.

E. WEST ORANGE DEVELOPMENT ZONES OVERVIEW – Zoning Official Geniece Gary-Adams providing an overview of zoning practices and methodology in the Township of West Orange. Highlights include: 7 residential zones; 19 business zones; explanation of similarities & differences between B-1 & B-2 zones; other types of zones described including PC – planned commercial, I – industrial; etc. Changing of zoning designations was discussed. Last master plan was done in 2019.

F. RECAP OF 2021

- ROCK SPRING; THE ROCK 1925; DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT – Council Liaison Williams read off the recap of development highlights from 2021.
- CANNABIS – Member Yasin provided an overview of the work of the local cannabis taskforce.

G. NEW BUSINESS

- INFRASTRUCTURE MONEY – Chairman Henry described the need for revenue streams for the Township. Meeting with Congressman Donald Payne, Jr. is in the works for seeking out federal assistance where appropriate for shovel-ready projects. Council President McCartney explained a plan from the Administration is being submitted to the Congressman’s office.
- POTENTIAL REVENUE STREAMS FOR THE TOWNSHIP – Chairman Henry proposed offering broadband services as a revenue stream. Members Yasin & Raymond proposed the development of microgrids for energy sustainability.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Member of the public Bruce Hoch applauded the efforts of the commission. Suggested the Township hire and use a planner. Offered his services.

Next Meeting Date: **TBD**

Motion to Adjourn:

Time of Adjournment: 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Commissioner Abdur Yasin

Minutes approved 3/7/2022