



CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of Open Session of March 17th, 2022 7:00 pm meeting

Held through Zoom Virtual Meeting Conference

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Botelho at 7:02 pm. Those identified present through roll call vote were Chairwoman Botelho, Mr. Radway, Mr. Leonardo, Mr. Corria, Mr. Brun, Mr. McManus, Mr. McNelis, Ms. Bateman, Ms. McNamara (Chamber of Commerce) and Mr. Moran

II. Executive Session Vote

On a Motion by Mr. Leonardo and Seconded by Mr. Radway, the Commission voted by roll call vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(7) to discuss the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest.

Executive closed session commenced to deliberate on the startup proposal Mr. Ruarri Miler and the continued review of the Enotap, LLC commercial loan submitted for review and decision by the Economic Development Commission.

New Business

- A. Business startup discussion - Ruarri Miller startup proposal discussion (Discussed in Executive Session)**

Old Business:

- B. Loan Application Request of Enotap, LLC (continued from February meeting and discussed in Executive Session)**
- C. Motion to Seal the Minutes of the Executive Session (Made in Executive Session)**

III. Adjourn Closed Executive Session

IV. Reconvene in Open Session

On a Motion by Mr. Radway and Seconded by Mr. Corria, the Commission unanimously voted to seal the executive session minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Moran announced the decision of the Economic Development Commission to unanimously approve the loan application of Enotap, LLC subject to the following conditions:

- The loan amount shall be \$99,000;
- The term of the loan shall be 60 months;
- The rate shall be 20% below prime rate, calculated at the date of the closing and adjusted annually per changes in the prime rate. However, at no time shall the rate fall below 3%;
- The City's funding shall be applied to tasting room improvements as described within the loan application at the companies facility at 310 Bourne Avenue (Building 82);
- A second or third position lien shall be taken on all assets of Enotap, LLC;
- A personal guarantee of Marissa Stashenko and James Davids shall be required;
- All necessary local and state permits associated with the construction of the facility and all necessary permitting and licensing associated with the wine business are obtained and all work completed meet all other City regulations;
- The loan is subject to an annual 1% loan administration fee.

V. Staff Report

Chairwoman Botelho asked about the City's application to the EDA for funding to be utilized for an expanded economic development loan program use. Mr. Leonardo indicated that the Planning Department applied for \$500,000 in funds from the EDA that would be administered under the authority of the Economic Development Commission and would be structured to reach potentially underserved business startup recipients in the community including women and minority owned businesses. 25% of the loan funds would be appropriated to WBE and MBE businesses. The application also indicates that the amount of funds in our loan program is limited and that this funding would provide a much needed infusion of new capital into the program. Mr. Moran indicated that this loan pool would also allow funds to be used for working capital.

Chairwoman Botelho asked about the status of funding for the City's façade improvement program. Mr. Moran said that the façade improvement program has been identified as a funding priority and that the funding will likely be taken from the City's ARPA fund allocation. But as of this date a final decision to fund this program has not been made. Mr. Moran stated that he anticipated that the decision to fund this program will be made within the next one to two months. The program would likely provide a larger grant than the previous program (\$5,000 vs. the \$2,000 that was part of the original program).

Mr. Moran discussed the expansion plans of Igus, Inc. with the Commission.

VI. Adjournment

On a Motion by Mr. Radway and seconded by Mr. Leonardo, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

James Moran

Recording Secretary