



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND 2024 - 4:00 P.M.
SECOND FLOOR (CMO) CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL
910 S. FRIENDSWOOD DRIVE, FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm with the following members present:

CHAIR SUSAN ASIMAKIS
VICE CHAIRMAN BLAISE GUZZETTA
COMMITTEE MEMBER JUDY WIGGINS
COMMITTEE MEMBER DENISE SPRUIELL
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER STEVEN RHEA
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUBREY HARBIN
SECRETARY KRISTINA CUELLAR

ABSENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANDREA TRABANINO
COMMITTEE MEMBER KYLE WINNE
COMMITTEE MEMBER PAULINE MOORE
COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY BRANSON

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Discuss and take possible action on amendments to the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone #1.

Harbin presented the finalized update to the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone #1 which will change to only waving permit fees for Zone Changes, Plats, and Site Plans for Downtown District Zoning and to consolidate areas A & B. Gazzetta made a motion to recommend updates to the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone #1 to City Council, Second by Wiggins, motion approved 4/0.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- B. Discuss the Community and Economic Development Committee economic development and business retention strategy.

Asimakis welcomed guests Amy Reed and Ruchi Gupta with the Small Business Development Center and thanked them for attending. The committee discussed planning ideas for next year's Small Business Week, May 4 – 10, 2025. Deciding on a rough outline of having a Kick-Off Event, Keynote Speaker, Panel Discussion, and Networking. The committee will share ideas for who the keynote speaker could be. Asimakis went over the internship idea that was brought up at the last meeting, giving college students opportunities to shadow and gain experience through an internship program. Winnie would be willing to work on applications for students/businesses. Denise helped create a list of business categories and companies that may want to participate. Wiggins and Asimakis met with Susan Kirkpatrick with the Friendswood High School CTE department. Kirkpatrick gave contact information to her contacts at Clear Creek ISD, College of Mainland, and San Jacinto College. Kirkpatrick also offered for the committee to market the internship program at Friendswood High School during lunch for seniors. Ideally, the goal would be to launch the "Future Work" project in January and match students/businesses in April/May.

Diana Lopez, Geographical Information Services (GIS) Manager, gave an update on the restaurant survey that allows owners to be added to the master restaurant list. Glenda Faulkner, Director of Communications, and Katy Harris, Multimedia Communications Specialist, joined the meeting to discuss ideas for promoting the Restaurant Survey through the city's social media. It was decided that the launch date would be the first of the year, with Katy and Glenda working on the branding.

5. REPORTS

A. Receive the Staff Business Report.

Harbin presented the business report for August and September 2024.

Certificates of Occupancy Issued:

Pinch a Penny	1520 S Friendswood Dr. Ste 100
Al- Qalam Institute	2300 Old Rd Ste 100
CLS Health/Thomas Pain Consultants	111 E Edgewood Dr
CKS Health	119 E Edgewood Dr
Allied Fire Protection LP	1311 W Parkwood Ave
Fire Station #2	2601 W Parkwood Ave
Twenty20 Ministries	211 E Parkwood Ave Ste 100

Temporary Certificates of Occupancy Issued:

Challenge Elite Sports	14150 Beamer Rd
Performing Arts Center at FHS	702 Greenbriar Dr
Athletics addition at FHS	702 Greenbriar Dr
Choir and Band Renovation at FHS	702 Greenbriar Dr

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:27pm.