1. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Rosario called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

Members Present:
Veronica Rosario, Chair
Joelle Murchison, Vice Chair
Jim Arsenault, Jr.
Erwin Hurst
Anita Morrison
John Morrison
Angie Parkinson

Members Absent:
Brennden Colbert

Guests Present:
Michael Daniels, Economic Development Coordinator

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Ms. Murchison moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting.
Ms. Morrison seconded the motion.
All voted in favor, none voted opposed
Motion Passed

Erwin Hurst is new to the commission. All attendees introduced themselves.

3. BROCHURE OF RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES
Based on a discussion from the previous meeting, the commission members discussed creating a brochure of various resources for businesses that can be included in a welcome package or given to anyone who approaches the Town for assistance. Mr. Daniels provided a brochure prepared by Goman & York of tax incentives that can be used as a starting point. Members discussed branding, targeting both small and large businesses, ensuring the language is concise and accessible, and adding a variety of information. Members will prepare suggestions for the next meeting.
4. POTENTIAL NETWORKING EVENT

Chair Rosario suggested holding an event, potentially to be held at Carmine’s or another East Hartford restaurant, to celebrate the East Hartford business community, allow for networking and mentoring, and to highlight minority and female owned businesses. Mr. Daniels suggested the members look to the Chamber of Commerce’s East Hartford Networking sessions to make connections and learn what kind of event the local business community may be interested in holding.

5. SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT HOURS AT THE LIBRARY

The second session of the Small Business Support Hours at the Library will take place on February 25th. It will take place virtually on Zoom due to the weather. A variety of representatives from organizations that support small businesses will be available to people starting or running a small businesses to provide advice and referrals to resources.

6. BUSINESS VISIT SCHEDULE

Business visits will resume soon as COVID-19 cases continue to fall. Mr. Daniels will work to set one up at Rebel Dog Coffee Co.

7. DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Town Council approved a development agreement and tax incentive package with Jasko Development for the apartments at the former Showcase Cinemas site. The project still needs Planning & Zoning approval. National Development has proposed a Logistics Center and R&D development for Rentschler Field. They are beginning their approval processes with Planning & Zoning as well. Key Food is now open on Main Street. The Russell Jamaican Restaurant on Main Street has installed signage and is expected to open in March. School Street Square has a new owner who is planning renovations and a specialty grocery store. A hotel operator has approached the Town about purchasing and renovating 363 Roberts Street to reopen it as a hotel.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Morrison moved to adjourn. 
Mr. Arsenault seconded the motion. 
All voted in favor, none voted opposed 
Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Daniels
Economic Development Coordinator