

COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER ROOM 111/MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

FEES COMMITTEE

February 15, 2023

PRESENT Chair Harry Amadasun, Councillors Awet Tsegai (via Teams) and Travis Simpson

ALSO Mayor Michael P. Walsh (via Teams)
PRESENT Eileen Buckheit, Development Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Amadasun called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 24, 2022

MOTION By Travis Simpson
seconded by Harry Amadasun
to **approve** the minutes of the October 24, 2022 meeting.

Motion carried 3/0

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

NEW BUSINESS

363 Roberts Street

Director Buckheit introduced Gary Patel, Asset Manager for Kautilya East Hartford Hotel, LLC. Last fall, the business acquired the hotel property at 363 Roberts Street. Mr. Patel has started a renovation project on the site to convert the space to a hybrid extended/short term stay hospitality venue. After review by Planning and Zoning Commission, the project has received two special permits: one for a drive through and one to provide long-term stay options. Interior demolition has begun. Mr. Patel has provided administration with an estimate of renovation expenses of \$9.2 million. The Director estimates that the building permits on the property to be between \$371,000 and \$400,000. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a proposed 50% reduction based on discussions between the Mayor's Office and Mr. Patel.

Mr. Patel shared details of the project, including the approval from Planning and Zoning to house a Starbucks franchise on site. The rehabilitation project is fully financed.

The Director stated that the hotel project has qualified for support from the Town's ARPA funded Small Business Assistance program. The property is also located in an Enterprise Zone, qualifying for tax abatement once the property is reassessed.

MOTION By Travis Simpson
 Seconded by Awet Tsegai

to **recommend** that the Town Council approve a 50% reduction for 363 Roberts Street in Building and Fire Marshal fees, not to exceed \$200,000 in total reduction of fees.

Motion carried 3/0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Awet Tsegai
 seconded by Travis Simpson

to **adjourn** (6:36 p.m.).

Motion carried 3/0

cc: Town Council
 Mayor Walsh