



Draft Meeting Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 27th, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

Roll Call: Present: Members Gager, Horng Brawer, Kagawa, Petersen and Shrem

Absent: Members Figone, Taylor (on leave)

Staff Liaison: Mintz

1. Staff/Council Liaisons Announcements and Reports 7:30

Staff provided a brief update on the opening of Ohlone Gardens, the anticipated timeline for the Eden Senior Housing project and the unveiling of the Anza National Historic Trail wayside sign.

2. Comments from the Public on non agenda items- 7:45

There were no public comments on non agenda items.

3. Minimum Wage Ordinance – 7:50

Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager, provided a presentation on the City's consideration of a Minimum Wage Ordinance. In March, City Council added preparing a local living wage strategy to its Strategic Plan and at a study session at City Council on August 18, Council directed staff to draft an ordinance that raises the local minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2018 or 2020. Ms. Iarla's presentation is attached. Additional community presentations are scheduled at the September Human Relations Commission meeting; September 15, Chamber of Commerce luncheon; and a September 21st community meeting. Additional information can be found at www.el-cerrito.org/wages

The Committee held a discussion about the topic and requested that staff conduct a survey of local businesses and requested that the item be brought back to them prior to being brought to City Council for consideration. They also asked for additional data regarding the number of local employers and employees that would be impacted and discussed the possibility of exemptions and ways in which the City could help offset the impact to local businesses.

The Committee held an informal poll on the topic, with Shrem opposed; Petersen interested in a modified ordinance with exemptions for restaurants; Horng Brawer in favor but wanting more information to better understand the benefits and costs; Gager in favor; Kagawa wanting more information.

Two members of the public spoke on the item. Nick Arzio spoke in favor of the ordinance. Bill Kuhlman spoke and expressed concern about the difficulty of a contractor or company providing services in multiple jurisdictions.

4. Approval of the Minutes – 8:50

Motion to approve minutes (Kagawa; Petersen 2nd). All in favor.

5. Recommendation to appoint EDC Member – 8:55

Motion to recommend that the City Council appoint Shanti Corrigan to the EDC. (Shrem, Peterson 2nd) All in favor.

6. Community Mixer – 9:00

The Committee discussed that the recent low turnout may have been due to the summer date and late announcement. Mixers should be quarterly going forward, not monthly and that September 18 will still be held. At the next EDC meeting, discussion of how to increase participation in the Mixers will be held.

7. Restaurant Week Update – 9:15

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Emily Alter, Staff Liaison at alter@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 215-4385 (voice) at least FIVE (5)

WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

10890 San Pablo Avenue El Cerrito 94530

Community Development Manager Melanie Mintz provided an update on the planning of Restaurant Week. Committee members were invited to make one last appeal to restaurants to participate, as the deadline for being included in the poster and East Bay Express advertisement would be Friday, September 4th. Participating restaurants can be viewed at www.el-cerrito.org/restaurantweek Restaurants wishing to participate that did not respond by the deadline can still participate, and their business name will be included on the event website.

8. Committee Member Updates and Discussion of Future Actions and Agenda Items – 9:20

The Committee identified the following as items to discuss at upcoming meetings.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- *Minimum Wage Ordinance*
- *Revisiting Goals and Next Year's Activities*
- *Revisit PopUp policy, and sponsoring specific event*
- *Programming Mixers*
- *Restaurant Week*
- *Collaboration with other City committees and community organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce*
- *Economic Development Action Plan Update*

9. Adjournment- 9:30