CCC Meeting Room 105 / MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

TAX POLICY COMMITTEE

February 14, 2023

PRESENT Angie Parkinson, Chair, Councillors Travis Simpson and Don Bell (arrived 5:08 pm)

ABSENT

ALSO Michael P. Walsh, Mayor

PRESENT Eileen Buckheit, Development Director (via Teams)

Jay Margnelli, CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce

Rich Kehoe, Town Council Chair

Michael Daniels, Economic Development Coordinator

Paul Mounds, Project Manager, Development

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parkinson called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 5, 2022

MOTION By Angie Parkinson

to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2022 meeting

MOTION By Travis Simpson

seconded by Angie Parkinson

To **amend** the October 5, 2022 minutes as follows:

Revising the last two paragraphs of the minutes to read as:

"The committee then discussed the overall evaluation process. Currently over 100 applications have been submitted looking for various degrees of support. Mr. Margnelli stated that given the influx, the group has put a pause on taking in additional applications as of September 30th. The group agreed that going forward, priority will be given to applications that have greater community impact, and projects that will improve the overall beautification of the town."

Motion carried 2/0

MOTION By Travis Simpson

seconded by Angie Parkinson

to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2022 meeting as amended.

Motion carried 2/0

January 10, 2023

MOTION By Travis Simpson

seconded by Don Bell

to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting

Motion carried 3/0

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

<u>Matthew Wallace</u>, CEO & President of VRSim, located at 111 Roberts Street, stated that his business has made an application to the ARPA Small Business Assistance program for funding toward expenses related to the business's recent relocation within East Hartford. Mr. Wallace reviewed the scoring system for evaluation of applications and feels that the business is worthy of additional consideration.

<u>Eileen Buckheit</u>, Development Director, stated that the scoring metric was created based on the high demand of businesses for support through the program.

Mr. Wallace stated that as the criteria metric was not provided during the initial application process, his organization would have made adjustments to their pitch.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of ARPA Small Business Assistance Applications

The Committee discussed the efforts of the program to provide an equitable manner of delegating funds that is mutually beneficial to the Town and its small businesses. The rubric was created to provide a more objective means to evaluate proposals.

Director Buckheit stated that given changing circumstances for businesses that have applied for assistance, additional review of submissions is likely. Based on previous discussion with the committee, the evaluation team created a tiered percentage approach to awards. By providing a scaled portion of the amounts requested on applications, the program team feels they will be able to spread the funding out amongst more organizations.

The Committee discussed opportunities to share success stories of businesses in East Hartford that have been helped by the program and further outreach of resources available to support small business through the Chamber of Commerce.

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

MOTION By Travis Simpson

seconded by Don Bell to **adjourn** (5:54 pm)

Motion carried 3/0

cc: Town Council

Mayor Walsh