

M A D E R A C O U N T Y
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
B O A R D O F C O M M I S S I O N E R S
October 27, 2021

MINUTES

This meeting was conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Social distancing per the Executive Order were used the meeting. Members of the public were advised at posting of the agenda that comments were accepted via email at info@maderacountydc.com.

PRESENT: Ollie Ridge, Brett Frazier, Brad Ditton, Darin Sourkup, Aran Johal,
Tracie Scott Contreras, Ron Flores, Waseem Ahmed,
Robert Poythress, Santos Garcia

ABSENT: Paige Hill, Anthony Corales, Wade Wheeler

STAFF: Bobby Kahn, Lois Leonard, Maritza Garcia

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Poythress.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITION

None.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No changes.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes

-July 14, 2021

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Financial Report

- September 2021

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Scott-Contreras, the consent calendar is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 AB361 Changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act Opening Meeting Laws

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Ahmed MCEDC will adopt Resolution 2021-1 authorizing Remote Teleconference for all Commission and Executive Committee Meeting in accordance of Assembly Bill 361 for a period of 30 days. Motion carried.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

None.

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioners Reports

Commissioner Flores- (Industry at Large)- *reported industry is quite busy and still facing the same issues as in the past several months. Shortage of labor, materials, transportation but not a shortage of price increases. Waiting for it to level out.*

Commissioner Ridge-(Madera Ranchos Chamber)- *reported busy in the Ranchos with business booming and a new Mexican Restaurant opening on November 6th. Election of officers will be held on November 12th. They will have a Chamber mixer on December 8th and on December 3rd lighting of their Veterans tree. Still waiting to determine if they will hold their annual crab feed.*

Commissioner Frazier-(Board of Supervisors)- *reported on supply issues with his business and labor shortage. Although, the people willing to work are good employees looking for an increase in pay. The Madera County sign on Highway 41 at the Fresno/Madera county border is coming along. County is working on redistricting after the 2020 census with several options in play, with no decision yet..*

Commissioner Soukup- (Oakhurst Chamber)- *not a lot to report. The recent Fall Festival was a successful event. Nominations for man, woman and business of year is due on November 12th.*

Commissioner Johal-(Coarsegold Chamber) - *reported the chamber will hold their annual Tarantula Festival this weekend. The Chamber will be part of the newly formed Eastern Madera County Foundation.*

Commissioner Ahmed- (City of Chowchilla)-reported on new business in Chowchilla. Joe's Car Wash will open soon, an Indian Restaurant has opened and Rancho Calera is moving forward. The City had a Town Hall meeting for their improvement plan. They are having a Halloween costume contest at the Senior Center and recently finished up the movies in the park.

Commissioner Scott Contreras-(Workforce Investment Board)- reported the local and regional plans have been approved by the Governor. Working on training incentives for businesses. The regional area comprised of eight boards are working together on several grants for the region. The center is changing strategy. Instead of doing job fairs they are working with businesses creating videos and flyers to attract job seekers. This has been getting positive feedback and results. They are looking to purchase a drone and add overhead videos to add to the presentations. They recently did an in person event for the Prison Authority. And have been working with MUSD on a recruitment effort.

Commissioner Poythress- (Madera Chamber) - invited everyone to the Town Hall meeting tonight held via zoom, where Bobby will do a presentation and answer questions from the community on Economic Development in the City of Madera. The Pomegranate Festival will be held on November 6th at the Madera Fairgrounds.

- 9.2 Executive Director-** Bobby reported we are not lacking projects. After over a year of obstacles Cal Pacific Supply is moving forward with their 100,000 sq. foot building on the corner of Almond and Granada in the City of Madera. Miles Chemical is getting close to finishing their building at Pecan and Granada in the City of Madera. Working with the City of Chowchilla on a hydrogen manufacturer near Certainteed. Continuing to help Madera Skate find a location. Met with Station Casino for an update on their project. Nemat Management is looking to build a few spec buildings on his property. Working with Warnock Foods new owner's on Air Board issues. The new owners are from Japan. ZND US, a security fence manufacturer is working on their permits for their location in the SW Industrial Park with plans to build another 100,000 sq. foot building in the future. This is a Netherlands company with another location on the East Coast. Marlon Recreational Products will be moving into the old Brodhead Steel building on Almond Avenue. Working on two other projects include, two Major projects. Project Riverwood in Madera County and Project Sunset in Chowchilla. Also Dutch Brothers will opening on a pad in front of Vallarta. Attended the West Pack Trade Show with CCVEDC. The attendance was smaller than in years past but we received the same amount of leads. Attended a combined So Cal mission with a SIOR Chapter event. We continue with the monthly zoom meetings. Recently met with 2 brokerage companies and 2 development companies. Upcoming events include CA Forward, Nor Cal SIOR holiday luncheon and possibly another So Cal SIOR event.

The Eastern Madera County Chamber Alliance will be merging with the Eastern Madera County Foundation. Working with the county on another grant program. Attending the Measure T steering committee meeting and the Cal Ed Legislative Committee meetings. Will be doing a presentation this evening at Supervisor Poythress' Town Hall meeting.

9.3 Manager of Business Development & Marketing- as reported.

9.4 Business Assistance/Office Manager- *Lois reported we have provided grants for 23 businesses in the City of Madera and are working with the county on a new program to provide grants to businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county using ARPA funds. Hopefully, launch will be around the middle of November.*

10.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on January 12, 2021.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard, Recording Secretary