

N.F.C. DEVELOPMENT CORP.
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, May 22, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers
Niagara Falls, New York

Present: Mayor Paul Dyster
Council Member Scott (5:10)
Council Member Touma
Council Member Voccio
Mr. Joseph Casale
Mr. John DeMarco
Ms. Jacqueline Henwood
Mr. Michael Hooper
Ms. Lucy Muto
Mr. Chris Robins
Ms. Lee Whittaker

Absent: Council Member Kennedy
Council Member Tompkins
Ms. Clara Dunn
Mr. Stanley Fera
Mr. Douglas Mooradian
Ms. Doreen O'Connor
Ms. Anne Sawicki

Staff Present: Gail Bimont
Douglas Janese
Tom DeSantis
Tommy Tedesco
Allen Booker
Maria Brown

Others Present: Marlon Grant, Ninja Barbershop
Matt Norelli, SPOT Coffee

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dyster at 4:35 pm. A quorum was present.

Agenda Item #3 Approval of Minutes of Meeting held March 27, 2019

Mr. Casale made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 27, 2019, second was made by Council Member Touma. **Unanimously approved.**

**Agenda Item #4 Presentations –
Ninja Barbershop
SPOT Coffee Niagara Falls**

Mr. Marlon Grant, the owner of Ninja Barbershop, reported that he has been a barber since 2005. He came here from Jamaica in 2008 and was immediately welcomed by this community. He purchased the building at 1220 Main Street and is in the process of a total renovation of the building. When open for business, he will have ten stations, which will include barber chairs and hair styling. He will use the grant funds to purchase construction materials and for stylist stations and barbershop chairs.

Mr. Matt Green addressed the Board to explain his new business which will be located in the Old Niagara Club. SPOT Coffee has a well know reputation in the area and it is their goal to bring visitors out of the park and into the City. During the off season they plan to cater to the locals with a menu of coffees, sandwiches, pizzas, etc. They will have a large on line presence and will be putting up new signage before their planned opening in September.

Agenda Item #5 Vote to Approve Micro Enterprise Grant in the Amount of \$7,168.50 to Ninja Barbershop

Council Member Touma made a motion to approve the Micro Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$7,168.50 to Ninja Barbershop, second was made by Ms. Whittaker. **Unanimously approved.**

Agenda Item #6 Vote to Approve Micro Enterprise Grant for SPOT Coffee Niagara Falls in the Amount of \$10,000.00

Council Member Voccio made a motion to approve the Micro Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 to SPOT Coffee Niagara Falls, second was made by Mr. Robins.

POLLED VOTE		
IN FAVOR	9	
OPPOSED	0	
ABSTAIN	1	(Ms. Muto)
MOTION APPROVED		

The applicants were brought back into the room and informed that their grant requests were approved.

Agenda Item #7 Executive Director – Nomination/Discussion/Vote

Mayor Dyster reported that they are in the process of coming up with a re-organization plan for the Department of Economic Development since Mr. Anthony Vilardo has left the position. Mr. DeSantis has been serving as Acting Executive Director with no additional pay. Mayor Dyster proposed that Mr. Allen Booker be named Acting Business Officer with a prorated amount of \$7500 added to his salary to take on the additional duties. He would also serve as Acting Economic Development Director. Since Mr. Vilardo was also Acting Director of the Urban Renewal Agency, he

proposed that Mr. DeSantis' salary be amended to an additional \$10,000 using URA funds. That would need to be voted on by the URA Board of Directors. Thomas Tedesco, the Renewal Community Coordinator/Opportunity Zones Program Coordinator would receive a pro-rated amount of \$5,000 to amend his salary. This would need City Council approval. He would also propose to put an entry level position in the 2020 City budget.

Ms. Whittaker made a motion to Approve Allen Booker as Acting NFC Development Director/Director of Economic Development until the end of 2019, second was made by Mr. Hooper. **Unanimously approved.**

Agenda Item #8 Presentation of Audited Financials for 2018 by Maria Brown

Ms. Brown distributed the Audit 2018 Report from an independent firm, which will also be posted on-line. The NFC Development Corp. has a website and everything is posted there for transparency. Board members can also call Ms. Brown at any time with questions relating to NFC. Ms. Brown reviewed the status of current and outstanding loans. She also reported that NFC is funded with casino dollars and has not received any additional funding in 2018 or 2019.

Agenda Item #9 Old Business

Mayor Dyster thanked the Board members that were able to attend the ABO Training.

Agenda Item #7 New Business

None

Agenda Item #8 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.