

Economic Development, Business & Redevelopment Commission
Meeting Minutes July 21, 2025
Held in Council Chambers at Borough Hall

Meeting was called to order at 7:05

Attendance:

Present:	Deana Gunn	Dean Fazio
	Steven Russell	Joe Rizzuto
	Ryan Michelson	Cathy Zavorskas
	Linda Martin	

Absent: Brian Livesey, John Christopher, Joel Pascua, Jeff Kagan

Minutes of the May 19, 2025 meeting were presented – Dean made motion to approve, Joe seconded, all approved with correction to spelling of Steven Russell's name

Events:

- **Shark Run** – June 14th
 - Joe reported proceeds of approximately \$14,000; will have total soon from organizer. He was expecting a higher amount but was told that the costs increased due to tariffs.
 - Cathy pointed out that next year they may be able get lower prices from Panther Press, local business who she used for the Turkey Trot medals.
- **Blues & Cruise Car Show** – postponed to Friday, September 5th
 - No more rain dates. In the event of rain, vendors & sponsors will receive credit to next year's event and beneficiaries will receive funds after the event.
 - Linda reported that we only lost one vendor. She will reach out to those who could not make the event when it was held in May and will also check with the Farmer's Market vendors. We have 31 vendors including food trucks but can go to 40, per Deana.
- **Matawan Day** – October 4th, rain date October 5th
 - Sponsorships will be offered a payment plan – Aug. 1, Sept. 1, Oct. 1.
 - Linda reported that email requesting vendors went out to last year's vendors and we have 41 signed up so far. Email requesting sponsors will go out on July 22.
 - Cathy is meeting with Doug on July 22 to go over logistics.
 - Cathy suggested a change from local bands to two well-known bands with followers; Cost could be \$2,000-\$3,000 per band.
 - There will be a dedicated area within the festival for Main Street businesses.

Chamber of Commerce

- July 29th – Networking Luncheon at Hyderabad Spice;
Two events in August – luncheon at Brightview Senior Living in Holmdel on 8/13 and multi-chamber after-hours event at Pickleball HQ in Aberdeen on 8/26

- Linda distributed a bill presented in the Senate by Senator Vin Gopal to obtain state funding for chambers of commerce to assist with their efforts in promoting business and to advocate for small businesses. She is requesting Chamber members and local businesses to send an email to their representatives asking for support of the bill. An email sample will be provided to ease the process.

Local Business News

- Hudson Square Restaurant sold; most likely will be another restaurant
- Vigor Dispensary receiving last approval and to open soon
- Santander Bank property sold at auction
- BofA property development on hold; may be resold
- Key Food – Borough calling owner weekly; they are waiting for meter from JCP&L
- Joe reported that he is selling his donut shop in Belmar due to increase in rent, but will be staying in Matawan

Other Business

- Ryan presented draft of an ordinance regarding fees & fines for vacant properties. The fee schedule will be updated and enforced by Code Enforcement Officer. A question was raised as to whether the fees would be immediate for back vacancies or just going forward.
- Ryan reported that Welcome Packets for new residents were in the works and would include several brochures.

Next Meeting on September 15th

Meeting adjourned 8:15

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Martin

Linda Martin

Recording Secretary

Economic Development Business & Redevelopment Commission of Matawan