



**ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**August 15, 2024
7:30 a.m.
200 Old Bernal Avenue, Council Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order at 7:34 a.m. by EVC Chair Brian Wilson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Brian Wilson, Davinder Channon, Igor Leonov, Ken Benhamou, Roderick O’Brien, and Shareef Mahdavi. Reena Gupta arrived after roll call.

Absent: Steve McCoy-Thompson, Daniel Watson

City staff: Economic Development Manager Lisa Adamos, Deputy Director of Community Development/Planning and Permit Center Manager Melinda Denis, Economic Development Program Specialist Simone Pereira

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None were noted.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the June 20, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as presented on motion by Roderick O’Brien and second by Shareef Mahdavi.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chair Brian Wilson opened public comment. There were no public comments. Chair Wilson closed public comment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OTHER MATTERS

2. Presentation on Life Sciences/Biotech Industry Sector and City Zoning and Permitting Overview

Alex Greenwood of Alex Greenwood Group, who is assisting the City to formulate a business roadmap to enhance Pleasanton’s ability to support the attraction of life science, biotechnology, and closely related high-value industrial businesses, provided an overview of the existing market dynamics, trends, facility needs of the biotech industry, and overview of the scope of work. EVC members asked numerous questions regarding the zoning process, infrastructure needs to support target sectors, available space, and missing business types. Planning and Permit Center Manager Melinda Denis provided an overview of the City’s zoning and permitting process and potential opportunities for updates.

Chair Wilson opened public comment. Vice Mayor Julie Testa stated that the Housing Element update requires zoning for the state-mandated regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) and posed the question – how can the City preserve industrial sites for commercial development – for consideration of this project.

Feedback was provided by EVC members on the presentation and after additional discussion, Economic Development Manager Adamos noted that progress will be shared with the EVC throughout the year-long process.

3. Overview of i-Gate Innovation Hub/Startup Tri-Valley

Executive Director of i-Gate Innovation Hub Yolanda Fintschenko provided an overview of i-Gate Innovation Hub's mission and progress in growing the startup ecosystem in the Tri-Valley. The overview included the impact of Daybreak Labs, Startup Tri-Valley, and events including the upcoming Tri-Valley Life Sciences Summit.

Chair Wilson opened public comment. Vice Mayor Julie Testa acknowledged the work of i-Gate as she sits on its Board of Directors and informed the EVC of the workforce development opportunities offered by Las Positas College.

4. Receive Economic Development Information/Updates

Ms. Adamos referred to the business-related events provided in the agenda packet.

MATTERS INITIATED BY ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE

Shareef Mahdavi bid farewell to the EVC as this was his last meeting after serving for two terms, a total of eight years. EVC members and City staff acknowledged Shareef's service and offered sentiments of appreciation and congratulations.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.