

AGENDA ITEM #: 22-107
COUNCIL MTG. OF: September 20, 2022
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Administration
SUBJECT: Determine Status of the Economic Development Advisory Committee

INTRODUCTION:

To implement Council direction to abolish the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Please see comments within this staff report.

BACKGROUND

The Town Council created the Economic Development Advisory Committee in 2016 to assist in creating an environment that attracts business to Derry. Economic Development efforts in Derry have evolved since that time, including the retention of professional staff, which requires a further revisit of the By-Laws to enhance efficiencies. In light of the Town's organizational economic development capabilities and existing policy direction, the Council discussed the continuing need for a dedicated oversight body for economic development.

DISCUSSION

The Committee originally was created without the benefit of professional staff which required hands on involvement with marketing and economic development activities by the Committee. The Committee also assisted with the creation of economic development goals for the community. While those efforts certainly were appreciated, the Town's economic development structure and responsibilities have evolved since the creation of the Committee:

1. The Town retains an Economic Development professional on staff.
2. The Town Council continuously develops initiatives to advance the Town's commerce and has consistently identify economic development strategies as top goals.
3. The Town, with significant public input, has updated its Master Plan in 2020 which clearly identified community goals in general and economic development goals in particular.

The Town Council has previously recognized this evolution and twice amended the by-laws governing the Committee's role. First, in 2019, the Council eliminated the monthly meeting requirement and encouraged sub-committee activity on specific issues. In 2020, the Council further amended expectations by classifying the Committee as an ad-hoc Committee to work on short-term projects. The Town's economic development program

has evolved to the point where neither staff's nor the Committee members' time and resources are being utilized efficiently with the continuation of the Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Please see Resolution #2022-070.

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