

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MAY 20, 2013

Chairman Mike Olmstead called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Committee members present were Joe Lawless and Mike Olmstead. Also present were City Administrator Bridgette Kabat and Law Director Mathew Beredo.

VAPOR BAR, LLC

Mr. Beredo stated that a request has been made under a relatively new provision of the Ohio Revised Code that allows for the transfer of a liquor permit across county borders as long as the City endorses and acknowledges that the transfer will be of an economic development project and the City signs off on it. Matt Smith, co-owner of Revolver Electronic LLC, 6027 Blossman, Toledo, Ohio was present to discuss the economic development potential of his business. Mr. Smith stated that they started their electronic cigarette business online in 2009 after he and his partner found it to be a successful way to quit smoking. They opened a vapor lounge in Sylvania Township in 2011. Mr. Smith said that this is not a typical bar; it is a community where they have vaping in common. He said they want to have a full blown lounge with video games and a pool table where you can order a drink and food. Mr. Smith said they already have a liquor license that allows for the sale of wine and liquor; the one they are trying to transfer would allow them to sell beer. He said that they will not be selling beer or liquor to take home. Mr. Olmstead asked how many employees they would have. Mr. Smith said they would start with six employees. Mr. Lawless asked if there are any licenses needed for vapor lounges. Mr. Smith said there are not. Mr. Lawless stated that this is an interesting concept, but he is struggling with how this is an economic development project. Mr. Olmstead agreed. Mr. Lawless stated that he thinks that the ORC had the idea of a ball park in mind, not a bar. Mr. Smith noted that they have franchises in three states. He added that this could be the best vapor lounge in the U.S. He said that they have an event called Vapstock that could attract a thousand people.

The Committee agreed to table the request to give Mr. Beredo an opportunity to see where this language in the Ohio Revised Code originated. Mr. Olmstead and Mr. Lawless agreed that at this point they are not prepared to say that this is an economic development project. Mr. Lawless encouraged Mr. Smith to continue to look for a local license.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday, June 17, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Olmstead, Chairman
Economic Development Committee