

**ORDINANCE**

THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD HEREBY ORDAINS:

CHAPTER 54

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

▪ **54-1**        **Purpose.**

The Town Council finds that an Economic Development Commission is needed to encourage and enhance the business climate by promoting a variety of incentive programs and support services for both new and existing businesses consistent with the goals of the community.

▪ **54-2**        **Creation.**

There is hereby established an "Economic Development Commission" to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

▪ **54-3**        **Membership; appointment.**

The Commission shall consist of five members, residents of the Town, to be appointed by the Town Council. Members shall be appointed for a term of three years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

▪ **54-4**        **Vacancies.**

In the event of a vacancy on the Commission, the Town Council shall make an interim appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event that a Commission member shall have missed three consecutive regular meetings without the consent of the Commission Chair, then his or her membership shall expire forthwith and the Town Council shall make an interim appointment to fill the unexpired term of the vacancy.

▪ **54-5**        **Organization.**

The Commission shall organize annually and, by election, shall select from its membership a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and may adopt any rules of procedure deemed necessary for the proper discharge of its duties. Meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act.

▪ **54-6**        **Quorum.**

Three members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, and no vacancy in the membership shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all of the duties of the Commission.

▪ **54-7**            **Powers and duties.**

The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

A.        The Commission is an advisory board to the Town Council, the Planning Board and Zoning Board. The general purposes of the Commission are to:

1.        Establish long and short term economic development goals for the Town, including goals proposed for inclusion in the Comprehensive Community Plan;
2.        Provide support and outreach to existing businesses in the Town;
3.        Provide support and outreach to new businesses seeking to locate in the Town;
4.        Research properties in the Town that may be available for attracting new businesses;
5.        Develop a site inventory of potentially suitable sites for location and relocation of businesses; and
6.        Research local and statewide resources available to Smithfield businesses.

B.        As an advisory board, the Commission is intended to provide assistance to the Town Council, Planning Board and Zoning Board and input to the Town administration regarding issues and programs relating to economic development in Smithfield. In addition, the Commission is intended to act as a local resource for the community relative to economic development issues. In this respect, the Commission shall:

1.        Establish a work program based upon the action items included in the Economic Development element of the Comprehensive Community Plan;
2.        Meet on a monthly basis and report on an annual basis to the Town Council regarding the status of implementation of economic development initiatives within Smithfield;
3.        Work with local businesses to strengthen their competitiveness and to increase their ability to access competitive funding sources (state and federal);
4.        Act as an advocate and catalyst for economic development issues within the Town;
5.        Provide advisory review and assistance to the Town Council, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Planning staff relative to local ordinances and land development projects and potential modifications to the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Regulations aimed at improving the economic development climate within the Town; and
6.        Provide advisory review and assistance concerning any economic development matter referred to it by the Town Council.