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RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN ADDITIONAL FTE BE ADDED TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Councilors Wright, Getz, Malakie, Lobovits, Oliver, Lucas, Micley, and Block support the following Resolution.

Economic Development is key to keep our villages vibrant and expand our commercial base. Newton's commercial centers and corridors are generally active and desirable places to do business. Presently, the one FTE devoted to economic development is spread very thinly.

An additional FTE will be able to:

Assist businesses through the licensing and permitting processes; and

Connect commercial tenants to available spaces (For example, some storefronts in West Newton have short-term and very favorable rents and would be wonderful places for pop ups or an art gallery); and

Sell and market the city outside of Newton; and

Apply for grants and produce a better website and materials; and

Work with policy makers to make the city more business friendly; and

Assist in guidance with the recently adopted Village Center Overlay District zoning; and

With the passing of the very intensive village center zoning last year, an FTE may be available in the planning dept.

THEREFORE, Councilors Wright, Getz, Malakie, Lobovits, Oliver, Lucas, Micley and Block request an additional FTE be assigned to Economic Development Team.