



Amesbury

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State Approves Crucial Incentive Plan for Atlantic Sports Center

On Wednesday, the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council (EACC) approved the City's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan for the [Atlantic Sports Center](#) project, a roughly \$48 million proposal to construct a 410,000-square-foot indoor athletic facility with six hockey rinks, an office building exceeding 130,000 square feet, a 300-seat conference/function room, a restaurant, and other amenities.

The [TIF agreement](#), valued at approximately \$3.9 million over a 15-year term, is integral to the project's viability due to extraordinary, costly site constraints on the South Hunt Road property that the facility will soon call home. According to Amesbury Mayor Ken Gray, the feasibility of the entire project might have been at risk were it not for this TIF.

"This is an important milestone for the success of the Atlantic Sports Center," Gray said. "Without the TIF, State incentive programs, and the City's [Economic Incentive Strategy](#), this great project may not have been financially viable for a developer. In this case, the TIF is enabling the City to capitalize on a prime opportunity for growth on an undeveloped site with potential that would otherwise remain untapped for years to come."

The EACC highlighted the Atlantic Sports Center's state-of-the-art mixed-use facilities, capable of hosting sports tournaments and large functions. The State also pointed to the project's likely [impact on local job creation](#), citing the Center's plans to create the equivalent of 50 new full-time Amesbury jobs, if not more.

Statewide, the incentive package was one of fifteen given the green light on Wednesday through the Commonwealth's Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP). Governor Charlie Baker praised the program in a statement on Wednesday.

"The Economic Development Incentive Program leverages private investments to create jobs and to contribute to regional economies across the Commonwealth," Baker said.

"I am grateful to the Baker-Polito administration for supporting communities like Amesbury by giving us the tools we need to incentivize local investment and job creation," Gray said. "Upon its completion, the Atlantic Sports Center will serve as a shining example of why these initiatives are so important to the economic success of Massachusetts cities and towns."

[Plans for the Atlantic Sports Center](#) now await final approval from the Planning Board. Representatives from Global Property Developers Corporation, the company proposing the project, will again be before the Planning Board seeking approval on Monday night.

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