DeFuniak Springs City Council and Economic Development Committee Workshop Meeting January 11, 2018

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Henry D Ennis Sr., Councilwoman Janie Griffith, Councilman Kermit Wright, Councilman Wayne Graham, and City Manager Danny Lucas. Economic Development Committee members present: Terry Dawkins, Mac Work, Bob McKnight, and Charlie Morse. Councilman Ron Kelley, Economic Development Committee member Sally Merrifield and City Clerk Loretta Laird was absent from the meeting.

Economic Development Chair Mac Work called the Economic Development Committee and City Council workshop to order at 5:17 p.m. and indicated meeting was to discuss Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

EDC Chair Work introduced Attorney Carole Leone, Milton Law Firms representative, who provided her education background. Leone stated various things like vacant store fronts, dark streets, boarded up store windows, crumbling and deteriorating buildings, no citizens out at night or no activity during the day creates the image of a deserted downtown area.

Leone discussed what a CRA does for communities such as motivate redevelopment, using specific public funds to incentivize private investment. The idea for the CRA's is to partner with private businesses to get things going that will revitalize vital areas and create economic development for the community.

Leone further discussed how a CRA is created with existing blight areas being found, a CRA board formed, a redevelopment plan written with projects, policies and goas, a trust fund created, and a director responsible for planning projects, budgeting and presenting projects and other matters to CRA board. The board was suggested being the city council members plus two additional members

There being no further business, Chair Work adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

ADOPTED this12th day of February, 2018.

Mayor Robert "Bob" Campb

ATTEST:

Loretta A. Laird, City Clerk