

Community Redevelopment Agency  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Council Chambers  
June 23, 2021  
5:00 P.M.

Chair R. Henderson called the Community Redevelopment Agency meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Community Redevelopment Agency Board members in attendance: Reynolds Henderson, Joe Johnson, Cathy Mosley, and Susan Bakalo. Mayor Bob Campbell, City Clerk Maryanne Schrader, Planning Director Chris Wallace, and City Attorney Clay Adkinson were also in attendance. Board member Darius Paul was excused.

Councilmember T. Bierbaum was also present.

**2. Approval of Minutes** - Chair R. Henderson asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion** by Board Member J. Johnson and seconded by Board Member C. Mosley to approve the minutes of May 27, 2021. All ayes. Motion carried.

**3. Introduction of the City Manager**

City Manager Robert Thompson was not able to attend.

**4. CRA Request for Qualifications Update**

**a. Strategic Planning Consultant**

City Attorney Clay Adkinson said he spoke to the County regarding whether there was TIF money available. He mentioned the County is looking at the Main Street Restore funding and the USDA that has been extended to the Main Street program. After discussion, the Board agreed that the mayor and city attorney should negotiate with Restore in conjunction with the Main Street Director. City Attorney Clay Adkinson said Restore is limited to the full scope of white paper activity, however, the match could come in on the back end. There may be some willingness to partnership.

In response to Mayor Campbell and his question on alternating years, Chair Henderson responded that there is twelve years left for the CRA, so in 2033, the CRA will need to be renewed.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson voiced concern that a large part of our budget could be consumed on the strategic plan mentioning the money could be used for projects we already have.

Chair Henderson mentioned Melinda Gates of Walton County Public Works Environmental Resources said we could broaden the scope in the downtown area. He added Melinda wants to go out for bid again.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson said the other opportunity is with the USDA, as they have expanded for five years with Main Street, and we could ask for increased funding and could act as a co-recipient. He mentioned in talking to Mr. Archer, Director of USDA, he learned the funds were not the confines of a USDA grant. He also talked with the Rural Development team and because DeFuniak Springs was defined as a rural area, the County received the funds. He explained we have five years, but Rural Development would like us to spend it now. City Attorney Clay Adkinson said there is an availability of resources, so we could have metrics and data provided by other groups.

## **5. Code Enforcement Update**

### **1. Dumpster Purchase**

Code Enforcement Officer Chris Strawn asked for a continuance, as he does not have information yet.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson updated the Board that Council had adopted the resolution for code liens and fines. The Council wants to prioritize and focus on property that is not homestead or owner occupied. If someone has code liens that exceed the value of the property and exceeds three months out, the city manager will authorize foreclosure procedures. The process allows the city manager to negotiate for settlement of code liens. If someone else wants to buy the property, they can clean up the property.

In response to Chair Henderson and his question, City Attorney Clay Adkinson replied that the City will turn the proceeds over to the CRA unless there are other uses. He added that our policy on bids is on a case-by-case basis noting most of the property will be dilapidated. Board member J. Johnson said the opportunity is for someone to be able to pay it off by coming to the Board, and Chair Henderson added the goal is to recirculate the properties.

## **6. Citizen Comments – No one else came forward.**

Board member J. Johnson said the Fair Board is appreciative of the property that was donated by the city. He requested sidewalks from Harbeson Field to the Fairgrounds and said the Fair Board would like to partner with the CRA. Chair Henderson suggested partnering with the County, as we could connect it to a bigger project. He will ask Elissa Pettis, of Dewberry, if there is money available.

Board member J. Johnson said the County Commissioner thought they were giving money to CRA.


City Attorney Clay Adkinson said Commissioner Barker has advocated sidewalks down Walton Road. Councilmember T. Bierbaum said it would be better to connect the sidewalk to the Walton Road project. City Attorney Clay Adkinson said sidewalks are spelled out that CRA can spend money. Chair Henderson added he would like a sidewalk plan.

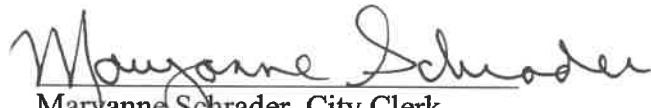
## **Adjournment**

**Motion** by Board Member C. Mosely and seconded by Board Member S. Bakalo to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chair R. Henderson adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Minutes Approved by,

  
Reynolds Henderson, Chair

  
Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk

