



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2019
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: **Chairman** Theo Washington, **Vice Chairman**, Rodney Daniels, **Director** Eddie Cole, **Director**, Marilyn Davis-Sconions, **Director**, Tarus Mack, **Director**, Brent Gardner; and **Director** Clarese Hopkins.

Also, in attendance: **CRA Attorney** Greg Jackson, Cathlene Williams, **Town Clerk**, and **CRA Director**, James Benderson.

Chairman Washington called the CRA Meeting to order at 5:30 PM, followed by Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. October 29, 2018 Special Session Minutes.** Motion by Director Sconions, the motion was seconded by Director Cole; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**
- 2. December 18, 2018 Minutes.** Motion by Director Sconions, the motion was seconded by Director Cole; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

A. New Business

- i. Beautiful Yard Award January/February-** Jasmynne Reese, we have 125 Eaton Street, Ms. Patti Joe Crane, for January 2019; for February 2019 is 310 Amador Circle; Andria Johnson.

- ii. **124 Taylor Avenue Façade Grant#CRA-R-17-02, and**, this is an older home, the windows will be replaced. Motion by Director Cole, the motion was seconded by Director Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**
- iii. **20 Bel Air Façade Grant- Re-Roof;** Motion by Director Cole, the motion was seconded by Director Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**
- iv. **2019 Calendar Adoption- Director Sconions** stated she would like to see a calendar presented. Motion by Director Cole, the motion was seconded by Director Mack to approve the 2019 CRA Calendar meeting dates; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**
- v. **Redevelopment Training Schedule-** Mr. Benderson stated he is trying to get the board members and staff as much training experience available. Director Sconions asked Mr. Benderson if these are one (1) day courses? Mr. Benderson replied YES, the training starts at 8:00 AM, you will be tested at 4:00 PM; certificates are presented at the end for the classes.

VI. Board of Directors Report

Director Gardner- NO REPORT

Director Mack- NO REPORT

Vice Chairman Daniels- Cultural Market Sign needs to improve.

Director Cole- NO REPORT

Director Sconions- NO REPORT

Chairman Washington- Resolutions dealing with Ms. Hopkins- 2018-22, from legal, when Town Council passed the Resolution do, we follow it, or do we do different? Attorney Jackson replied there have been several emails on this issue Jackson, emails on this issue; the question I believe you're asking me is one that I have heard several times; is whether when the Town passes a Resolution, is it possible to rescind that Resolution? The response that I have given several times is that if a Resolution violates Florida Statutes and there is a Florida Law that speaks to an action of this Board, then the statutory provisions is what dictates and not Resolutions; it is null and void. Questions with Town Council should go through the Town Attorney. If you are asking me my opinion as it relates to CRA; the opinion that I have provided based on my interpretation of Florida Law; specifically Chapter 163.357-subsection-4(b)-when you appoint an individual to a Board- when this individual was appointed to this board it was done appropriately; when you want to remove that person from the Board, you

have to follow Florida Statutes ; if this is not followed you have now violated Florida Law. You can not have a Resolution that violates Florida Law. Chairman Washington stated that once you have a Resolution that rescinded Ms. Hopkins from the Board, everyone started bringing up Chapter 163. Attorney Jackson replied that when the person was appointed, they were appointed following Florida Statutes, 163.3, whether you knew this, you were following established Florida Statutes. When I read these State Statutes, the language from the Florida Supreme Court, I am very confident in the understanding of what this says about the Towns Ordinance of Resolutions in comparison with the State Statutes, you can take it to court, but it will be a waste of time and resources assuming that it is not kicked out in a motion for summary judges. Director Sconions stated to Chairman Washington, if he is wanting to get some understanding, and is not good with the rulings coming from Attorney Jackson; I have spoken to Attorney Morrell several times and Attorney Jackson also about this, I would suggest you get an independent lawyer. Chairman Washington concern is when Town Council puts something in place it must be followed. Attorney Jackson has always stated that once a person has been appointed to a Board, the only way they can be removed is by Florida Statutes. Chairman Washington other issue is the employment of James Benderson, I would like to put a motion on the floor to terminate James Benderson as the CRA Director, this agency needs to go in a different direction, this will be effective today. Attorney Jackson stated that Mr. Benderson would have to be notified before you do that, specifically because he is a contract employee, and it would have to be on the Agenda and given proper notice to make that motion. The motion was seconded by Director Sconions. Director Mack states that if legal says this should be done a certain way, then let's do it the correct way; have a special session; Chairman Washington rescinded his motion.

Citizens Comments- Angie Gardner- are the trainings open to the citizens at large, or do you have to sit on the board; Mr. Benderson replied, yes you have to be on the Board.

7. ADJOURNMENT- Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Cathlene Williams, Town Clerk