



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019
5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Theo Washington, Director, Eddie Cole, Director, Marilyn Davis Sconions, Director Tarus Mack, Vice Chairman Rodney Daniels, and Director Claresse Hopkins. **ABSENT:** Director Gardner.

Also, in attendance: CRA Attorney Greg Jackson, Cathlene Williams, Town Clerk, and Jasmyne Reese, Community Coordinator.

Vice Chairman Daniels called the CRA Meeting to order at 6:25 PM, members present at the time are: Vice Chairman Daniels; Directors; Eddie Cole, Tarus Mack, and Claresse Hopkins, Vice Chairman Daniels led the Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**
- II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- February 19, 2019 Regular Minutes.** Motion by Director Cole, the motion was seconded by Director Mack; **AYE: Vice Chairman Daniels, Director Cole, Director Mack, and Director Hopkins**
MOTION PASSES.

IV. HEARINGS

A. Old Business

I. Street Paving Update-

B. New Business

- i. **Beautiful Yard Award April – 48, Lincoln,** Claudine King.
- ii. **Annual Report**
- iii. **3.5 Attractive for Business and Economic Development Opportunities.** Motion by Vice Chairman Daniels, the motion was seconded by Director Cole; just to update Director Mack, the 3.5 on quality, an update was given by Ms. Reese on the things that the board has accomplished, and some of the concerns that the board has had, and to be more detailed on

some of the things the board will be doing, that will be 3.1. the quality sense of place. AYE: Vice Chairman Daniels, Director Cole, Director Hopkins, and Director Mack. **MOTION PASSES.**

Chairman Washington, and Director Sconions, were absent during this voting.

Chairman Washington, and Director Sconions arrived at 6:40 PM.

- iv. **Administrative Operations to hire interim CRA Director- Chairman Washington requested this item be tabled. TABLED.**

- v. **Reinstate James Benderson to the position of Executive Director of the Town of Eatonville Community Redevelopment Agency.** Chairman Washington stated this is a contract person, can't reinstate a contract person. Attorney Jackson stated that under the provisions of his contract he can be reinstated. Chairman Washington stated that this contract was never brought to him to go on the Agenda, its out of order. I emailed Ms. Reese to find out how this was added to the Agenda, and what day was it put on the Agenda? Ms. Reese replied she believes this item was put on the Agenda on Friday. Chairman Washington stated whom ever put this on the Agenda was out of order. Ms. Reese replied that the Mayor is her director, since there is not currently one. No action taken by the Board.

Just for clarity, Attorney Jackson asked the Board members if they agree that the CRA is an Agency of the Town of Eatonville; board members agreed. Attorney Jackson stated that in looking at the Town Charter, the CRA is an Agency of the Town, and without this, it can not exist. According to the Charter, it states that; "the Mayor shall direct and supervise the administration of all departments, all offices, and agencies of the Town of Eatonville except as otherwise provided by this Charter or law. There is nothing in the Charter that says the CRA is carved out as an Agency. The Bylaws of the CRA does not trump the Town's Charter, as stated by Attorney Jackson.

V. Board of Directors Report

Director Hopkins- want to commend Jasymne, encourage her and continue to do the best that you can, don't be discouraged. None of us are experts in the law, except Mr. Jackson, this is why he was hired. Another thing, we do not respect one another, we can't separate our own biases for the best interest of the Town, we are not acting in the best interest of the citizens of the Town. I would hate for the Town to lose out on grants that would benefit the citizens of Eatonville; we need to get it together as a board, there is nothing but bickering during our meetings.

Director Cole-

Director Mack- NO REPORT

Director Daniels- NO REPORT

Director Sconions- NO REPORT

Chairman Washington-

VI. STAFF COMMENTS

Jasmyne Reese- if anyone has any questions for Agenda Item 5-b (3), please talk to me. Chairman Washington in regard to the Bylaws, please let me know how to further proceed.

Attorney Jackson- According to the Bylaws of the CRA in which I operate under, as General Counsel, I am responsible for the oversight of the CRA legal aspects, anything that I tell the board is only based on the laws and legal provisions that I have been trained to review, interpret, things of that nature, so I do not want anyone to think, that any advice that I give is anything other than me wanting to properly make sure that the legal affairs are in order. With that, a couple of weeks ago, I sent an email requesting a special meeting to discuss the potential exposure that this board is exposed to as a result of an action that was taken. I will again request, I have received a phone call from legal representation of Mr. Benderson, I believe that it is my duty to make the board aware of what the ramifications are, and potentially can be, and the resolution is to move forward on how to best do that.

Citizens Comments- Maye St. Julien- the Historic Town of Eatonville is a place that I have great passion for, that I raise with the highest passion. I was excited when the CRA received funding, for the Town and our residents, what happened seems to have left us out in the cold when it comes to the residents getting what they need to get from an entity that was basically dropped in our laps. What the citizens have received is ridiculous. The CRA is just what it says "an Agency". We need to revisit our purpose. Self-defeat is what we are experiencing.

Angela Johnson – want to commend Jasymne on all that she is doing, keep up the good, do not be discouraged, but to be encouraged. Follow your Bylaws and follow the advice of the Attorney.

Michelle Fort- Just to echo Ms. Johnson’s comments; when you have your meeting with the Attorney regarding the Towns’ exposure, will this meeting be public for the citizens to participate, if not, will there be a meeting for the citizens to participate on the available funds that are remaining for this fiscal year for CRA? Chairman Washington replied NO.

7. ADJOURNMENT- 7:13 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Cathlene Williams, Town Clerk