



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2019
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Director Hopkins, Director Sconions, Director Cole, Chairman Washington, Vice Chairman Daniels, Director Mack, Director Gardner.

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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- March 19, 2019 Regular Minutes. Chairman Washington stated that he has some concerns with these minutes; before we get to this action, I have handed out the CRA check register to look over, if you have any questions let me know, so we can get this on the next Agenda. I have also handed to you are guidelines on what CRA's can and cannot pay for, I will have some more information later. Regarding the March 19th meeting, I see that the meeting was called to order at 6:25 PM, was there any action taken prior to this; Ms. Williams stated there was no quorum, so there was no official meeting.

Motion by Director Cole, the motion was seconded by Director Mack; Chairman Washington stated he will not support these minutes, the meeting was supposed to be cancelled; **NAYE:** Director Sconions, Chairman Washington, and Director Mack, Director Gardner abstained from voting; **AYE:** Vice Chairman Daniels, Director Cole, and Director Hopkins; **MOTION FAILS.**

IV. HEARINGS

A. Old Business

I. **Annual Report Update-** Chairman Washington states he has a concern that Mayor Cole executed this document, this is a CRA document and it was not given to the Chair to execute, anything dealing with the CRA should come through the Director or the Chairman, there is nowhere in the Bylaws that states the Mayor can execute such documents. Attorney Jackson stated that the Chairman of the CRA Board is here to facilitate the meetings of the CRA Board, and to ensure the meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion to include with the Bylaws of the CRA, and to set the Agenda, this is where the Chairman position stops. Director Sconions stated to Attorney Jackson that he has not been forth coming with telling this board the truth about certain things, with all due respect, if I feel you are wrong, then I am going to you, that you are wrong, you mentioned something in another meeting, that was not correct information. Right now, I am not going to take your word for it because of what you have been doing in the past meetings, so I need to get further information on it, and do some research myself. Attorney Jackson replied that if there is something specific that you can point to where I have mislead this board, and not provided adequate information, pursuant to FS, case law pursuant to Federal Statute and Case Law, if there is anything you can point to and show me, I would be more than happy to address anything that you can show me, otherwise as a professional, my professionalism is being called to question, without there being a clear cut example of anything I have done inappropriate. Chairman Washington stated that the concern right now is the signature on the Annual Report as executed by Mayor Cole. Attorney Jackson stated that at the time of the documents, the Mayor was the Chairman of the CRA Board. and with all due respect. Motion by Director Cole, the motion was seconded by Director Mack; **AYE:** Director Hopkins, Director Sconions, Director Cole, Vice Chairman Daniels, Director Mack, and Director Gardner; **NAYE:** Chairman Washington; **MOTION PASSES.**

II. **3.1.7 Community Development Design Guidelines Update.**
The update on the design guidelines have been created, and await public input, workshops will be scheduled for the first and second

week of May, there is a projected timeline, Chairman Washington has requested that I revisit this information at the last meeting. What you have here are different elements within the CRA Plan that I identified that can be accomplished without a CRA Director, and that would work to make it more attractive for businesses, and economic development; Community Development Design Guidelines; Invest in Neighborhoods; Central District Parking System; and Essentials for Recruitment and Businesses; these are all included in the CRA Plan.

- III. **Reinstate James Benderson to the position of Executive Director of the Town of Eatonville CRA.** Chairman Washington stated that he has a reason of without clause for terminating him, this request is from Director Cole. The reason why I do not support Mr. Benderson, a lot of things going on that we do not know about, you guys need to look at the check register and look at some of the things that we are paying for, I don't think he was good for this agency, even with the business he has under the leadership, that is breaching his contract, conflict of interest. Director Cole stated that every dollar in the CRA belongs to the tax payers, I'd prefer putting our money into roads and fixing homes, to businesses in the Town, versus giving \$100,000 to someone because he was terminated incorrectly. I am saying to this board, that we would have to pay this money, because we did not follow the procedures. The reason why this is on the Agenda is because we did get a lot of things accomplished. Motion by Vice Chairman Daniels, the motion was seconded by Director Cole; **AYE:** Director Hopkins, Director Cole, and Vice Chairman Daniels; **NAYE;** Chairman Washington, Director Sconions, Director Mack, and Director Gardner. **MOTION FAILS.**
- IV. **Administrative Operations to hire interim CRA Director (Action).** Motion by Director Sconions to move this item under New Business, the motion was seconded by Director Mack; **AYE:** Chairman Washington, Director Sconions, Mack, and Gardner; **NAYE;** Director Cole, Vice Chairman Daniels, and Director Hopkins; **MOTION PASSES.**

B. New Business

- i. **Beautiful Yard Award May-** Ms. Reese stated that for the month of May, the beautiful yard of the month is 101 Eaton Street; Gregory Ware. Chairman Washington states that Mr. Ware keeps a nice yard, congratulations to him.

- ii. **414 Campusview Drive Façade Grant (Action)-** Ms. Reese request is for authorization for an Agreement for the applicant at 414 Campusview Drive not to exceed \$3,000, she is getting a roof. Chairman Washington put a motion on the floor to approve 414 Campusview Drive Façade Grant; the motion was seconded by Director Cole; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

- iii. **213 W. Kennedy Boulevard Econ. Redevelopment Proposal Discussion. Deanie Ware-** Vice President of the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce, what we are proposing is partnership with the CRA and revitalization, but to establish a community presence that will support the CRA efforts in job training; community event marketing; promotions and branding for the Town; these partnership requests also supports the goals within the CRA Plan, I would like to be considered for some funding for the CRA. Ms. Reese stated that there needs to be an application presented to the board to make a sound decision. On the application it requires financing, so this is what we are asking for as stated by Ms. Ware. Attorney Jackson recommended to the board that they follow their established process and procedures and get all the information from the applicant to decide. Vice Chairman Daniels stated that we need to get rid of the application and the point process; any business that wants funding, can just come before this board and present this information, and to ensure the funds are equally divided, this is not the proper or fair process, they would still need to fill out the application, this is what I indicated to Ms. Ware, we want the west side of Kennedy to look good, I want her to get her building re-done but the process has to be followed. Director Sconions stated that the process that is in place now, may not be good for the Town, if we have other cities are doing this for their Chamber of Commerce; almost every City in Orange County donates to their Chamber of Commerce.

- iv. **Chairman Authorization (Action)– Resolution #2019-1.** Chairman Washington stated this Resolution is being presented to the board, this is not for day to day operations, but if paperwork come in for me to execute, I feel as though I should be doing these, so I am asking the boards permission. Director Cole asked Chairman Washington for the support documentation, and this was not included in the CRA Packet, we are just receiving this information. Chairman Washington replied he was on vacation, didn't have time to get this on the Agenda. Chairman Washington stated that with the respect of the board members, and since they are just receiving this document, he will table this item until the next meeting. **(TABLED)**.

- v. **CRA Executive Director Resumes.** Chairman Washington asked Ms. Williams how many Resumes have we received for this position; Ms. Williams replied one (1); Michael Johnson. Director Sconions asked if we can go to Orange County to get copies of Resumes they received for their CRA vacancy. **(NO ACTION)**.

V. Board of Directors Report

Director Hopkins- in total agreement with the board members that tabled Resolution#2019-1 until the next CRA Meeting.

Director Gardner- NO REPORT

Director Sconions- on the check registry that you gave to the board, appreciate this, I have requested this information two (2) months ago and never received this, we are not getting what we asked for.

Director Mack- we need to fill the CRA Director position soon, this position is vital to the Town. On the proposal submitted by Ms. Ware, this is something that the board can help her in any way possible, moving forward on things that can be sustainable to the community, that will be good for a long time, especially for the future of our kids. Congratulations to the winner at 414 Campusview Drive for the Façade Grant.

Director Cole- thank everyone for attending the meeting tonight, we have to look at our board to see how much money has been earmarked for Grants, but anyone that is interested in this, we will ensure that you get the paperwork for this; if we need to we can go to our Contingency Fund to extend more. GreensEnd Street looks totally different, like day and night, than what you saw 2-3 years ago; there is a group of people that care

about the community, the managing of GreensEnd has changed tremendously. Congratulations to the winner of the façade grant this month; besides that I would ask that we look at how we manage our meetings in reference to Resolution #2012-28, its' for Council meetings as well as CRA meetings, to do a better job in how we conduct meetings, and respect one another.

Director Daniels- would like to apologize for questioning your character Attorney Jackson, you have not done anything to make we wager an opinion of you. For those that did not have an opportunity to look at the Butterfly Garden on West and Eaton, this will recognize our Veterans; right now, this is in the fund-raising phase as stated by Ms. Reese. With the one (1) application that was received for the CRA position; Ms. Williams is it possible to check with Orange County for possible Resume' for this position that they advertised. In reference to the Chair with the Resolution that he presented, he wants organization to do the daily activities and to hire an interim director, I will look over this Resolution before the next CRA meeting.

Chairman Washington- thank everyone for attending the meeting tonight, the meetings seem longer now, we may need to consider changing the meeting time of the CRA meeting, just my opinion.

VI. STAFF COMMENTS

Jasmyne Reese-

Attorney Jackson-

CITIZENS COMMENTS-

CLARENCE HAYNES- in regard to Catalina Park, most of public parks have restroom facilities, we do not have these facilities and we are being harassed; is it possible that CRA can look at their budget to see if this is something that we can get in Catalina Park. Chairman Washington replied this has been brought up before through the CRA, there has always been a concern of safety.

ANGIE GARDNER-training and funding to attend CRA Training Classes, I asked if citizens could go to trainings; Mr. Benderson the CRA Director at the time, and Mr. Cole Chairman at the time, looked at each other, and I was told no; but then Attorney Jackson, as always , he states what he knows about the law. I was registered for two (2) classes by Mr. Benderson; attended one (1) the class was very informative, the second class was cancelled, this was not a mistake on FRA, they were told this is not good use of CRA funds. Tonight, it was stated the CRA funds are for taxpayers to attend classes. I am asking the board to pick-up the cost for these classes.

LOUISSTEEN CUMMINGS- glad the board didn't approve the funding for the Chamber of Commerce tonight; Chairman Washington made a comment tonight that he had met with the applicant, this is a part of the Sunshine Law, you can't meet with someone that you are going to be taking a vote on. With the 501-C(3), I was on the CRA Advisory Board; there was a 501C(3) account in Ms. Andrews name, all the quads had their areas beautified, in my opinion I don't see where Mr. Benderson did anything wrong in opening this account.

7. ADJOURNMENT- 7:20 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Cathlene Williams, Town Clerk