



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2017
5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: **Chairman** Eddie Cole, **Vice Chairman**, Donovan Williams, **Director** Tarus Mack, **Director** Rodney Daniels; **Director**; Brent Gardner (arrived late; 5:50 PM), **Director** Marilyn Davis Sconions, and **Director**, Theo Washington.

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

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**
- 2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. MINUTES**

A. Approval of May 16, 2017 CRA Minutes. Motion by Director Daniels to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Director Washington; **AYE:**
ALL,

A. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. CRA-Resolution-17-08 Develop Eatonville Business Alliance (Action Item).** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EATONVILLE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS ALLIANCE ORGANIZATION FOR THE TOWN OF EATONVILLE LICENSED BUSINESSES PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Benderson explained this is an effort to get the Town's businesses to collaborate together in the CRA district that will allow a voice in the community to make the Town better, this is a paid membership, those funds would be used for events and activities associated in the Town; the fees are; for small businesses is **\$150.00 medium \$250.00 and \$350.00 for large groups.** Director Sconions asked Mr. Benderson shouldn't the fees be included in the Resolution; Mr. Benderson replied No, they are in the exhibit. Motion by Director

Daniels, the motion was seconded by Director Sconions; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

B. NEW BUSINESS

- I. **Homeowner informational meeting-** Mr. Benderson stated that he recently met with Orange County Neighborhood services, they provided information of services that is available to our residents, along with Orange County, there are several additional agencies that we will bring to the table, will be trying to do this with the conjunction of the upcoming job fair, waiting to receive confirmation from Orange County, when I receive this information, notices will be sent out regarding the meeting date, it will probably be on a Saturday morning.

- II. **Grant Applications-** We currently have three (3) residential Grant Applications out and one (1) commercial application out; and one (1) economic development proposal application.

5. Directors Report

Vice Chairman Williams- NO REPORT

Director Sconions- asked Mr. Benderson what are we doing with the home for the residents for repairs as proposed in the Budget, and also has the Agreement been completed? Mr. Benderson indicated that those are the three (3) residential applications that we was referring to; we have an standard Agreement that will be attached to each application, as approved by the CRA Board; Director Sconions asked to receive a copy of this Agreement.

Director Washington- We need to start the CRA Advisory Board as soon as possible, I have the name of the person that I would like to appoint; Mr. Benderson stated he recently updated the Board member application.

Director Daniels- how are we handling homes that have been abandoned for a while as far as foreclosure or rehabilitation, I know this board is very pro-active in this problem, should we wait on the acquisition updates; Mr. Benderson stated Yes.

Director Mack- NO REPORT

Director Gardner- NO REPORT

Chairman Cole- Code Enforcement is at an all-time high right now, they have had three (3) meetings, with 100% participation, one of the first items on the Agenda, was the Church on Lemon Street; they are aggressively moving in the direction of weed and seed. Board of Adjustments is fully active, they have been having meetings. Chairman

Cole asked Mr. Benderson to look into the Financial Disclosure forms for the CRA Board members.

Staff Report- James Benderson- the acquisition updates, we are looking at some properties for acquisitions, I have been communicating with some property owners as I work through the details of this, will bring this back to the Board, in getting rid of some of the dilapidated structures.

Attorney Jackson- want to keep the CRA Board up to date on things that are taking place in Tallahassee, had a meeting with representative Clayton; recently the legislative has made some minor changes to CRA's, the most significant is that CRA's that are brought into existence shall be brought to the Legislature. One of the more interesting comments made were the last session with house bill 13, they will come back next year to take a look at CRA's, one of the things I have done to be proactive is offered to speak with representative Clayton's policy writer, if we are going to have changes, we would rather have someone we have a relationship with to provide some policy language as it relates to CRA's. One of the things I see coming down next, is the legislatures are in better able to handle the needs of the community than the local elected officials. They may make a move for CRA's to come under the direction of the Florida Legislature instead of the municipalities governing bodies that initiated the CRA's in the past.

Citizen Comments:

Chad McKendrick; President of Preserve Eatonville Community- need clarity on why the PEC Agenda item was pulled; Chairman Cole replied this item came in after the CRA Agenda was prepared, and delivered to the board members. Mr. Benderson stated that he would like to receive agenda items in a timely manner to review the item, we will revisit the application, to get more information to and try to get the point system higher.

NY Nathiri; speaking on best practices with buildings that are old and dilapidated, would like to urge the Council work with Historic Preservation Board and others, there are dollars that are available for restoration of properties in Orange County. At the County level there is available \$1.5 million dollars in cultural facilities, some of the funds go back because there are not enough applications.

6. **ADJOURNMENT-** CRA Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Cathlene Williams, Town Clerk