



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

OCTOBER 22, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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

Also, in attendance:, Jasmyne Reese, and CRA Consultant Michael Johnson.

Chairman Washington called the CRA Meeting to order at 6:00 PM, moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CRA Consultant Mr. Johnson introduced Pastor Blair, the new Pastor of St. Lawrence Church, and to welcome him to the Community. Pastor Blair spoke to the Board members, he is here to work for the Community, not just to Pastor St. Lawrence

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

A. Denton Johnson Park Master Plan (Rhodes & Brito)

B. FAR Legislative Update- summary from the 2019 legislative session, information provided to the Board members as stated by Mr. Johnson; more specifically HB-9; these are some of the new mandates; just wanted to make the board aware of these new mandates.

C. Review of September 2019 Financial Report- Board members had no questions regarding the financial reports.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of TOECRA B.O.D Regular Meeting Minutes- 9/17/2019

B. Approval of TOECRA B.O.D. Special Session Meeting Minutes- 9/26/2019

C. Approval of TOECRA B.O.D appointing Director Tarus Mack as the Board Master Planning Liaison. Motion by Director Mack to approve the Consent

Agenda, the motion was seconded by Director Sconions; AYE: Director Sconions, Director Hopkins, Chairman Washington, Director Cole, Director Mack, and Director Gardner; NAYE: Vice Chairman Daniels; **MOTION PASSES.**

V. OLD BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

VI. NEW BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS

A. Administration Items

- 1. Approval of Resolution #2019-26 Community Partnership Agreement w/Eatonville Chamber of Commerce. TABLED**

B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEM

- 1. Approval of Resolution #2019-27 Authorizing the Administration to solicit RFP for FY 2019-2020 Auditing Services. TABLED.**
- 2. Approval of Resolution #2019-28 Authorizing the solicitation of Back office Bookkeeping and Payroll Services. TABLED.**
- 3. Ratification/Approval of Classic Home Developer as awardee of Infill Developers Loan Pilot Program. TABLED.**
- 4. Legal discussion/action (Chairman).**

Chairman Washington stated that these items tabled tonight are due to an emergency injunction that has been brought against the CRA Board four (4) members; we will have discussion about representation of the CRA, I received an email from our Attorney, it listed four (4) names; but the CRA is the whole board; not just four (4) people; if someone sues the CRA they are suing all 7 members; I don't like the fact he singled out four (4) individuals up here on this emergency action. When someone sues the CRA, don't single out members; the CRA is a 7-board member. In talking to the CRA Attorney Jackson, he did not show up for the emergency injunction. We have had serious issues with Brishaun Enterprises, and someone named David Washington, don't know who he is, someone need to tell us who this is, I am tired of looking at lawsuits and not being defended; if there is a conflict of interest with representation and you want to excuse yourself from the board, then fill out the necessary paperwork. We need good representation of this board; I don't think we are getting it; the only person that is getting representation is the name that appears on the lawsuit. Chairman Washington stated that he is not getting the right representation from the CRA Attorney, he is supposed to be representing the CRA Board. Director Mack stated that the things that are going on in the CRA in a positive direction, we are a board; the young man that has this lawsuit, I have known him a very long time, we went to school together. We should have had legal representation there, but the CRA Attorney wasn't there, this is ironic that he was not available to represent the CRA board on something

so important, he's available for other things but not for this, he needs to do a better job in letting the board know what's going in, instead of having the Board not being represented. I don't know what the motive is in the fact that people are coming up with whatever allegations they have. For the Attorney to not be available for an emergency injunction is a black eye to the community to receive the representation from our Attorney that we received, I am not happy about this at all. This is not about just one (1) individual; this is about the board, if I fail you fail, we are to make sure we are going in a positive direction. **Director Hopkins-** in response to Director Mack comments; we are all here for the purpose of developing the community, in economic empowerment; affordable housing; and to imply that you sit here and think, you kept saying that; I know there has been a suit filed against the CRA, but we are all here for the same purpose. I don't think anyone here that sits on this board is not in favor of the Town, I am here because I want to see Eatonville improve; to see a main street, and housing; my father was born on Clark Street; I lived in Eatonville for 40 years, and have worked in Eatonville for 25 years, so I am here because I love the Town of Eatonville; I resent what you are implying Director Mack; I don't think anyone here on this board has anything to do with this lawsuit. **Director Cole-** there is no warning given when they are doing an injunction; this could come from anybody at any time. Chairman Washington stated that Attorney Jackson did know about the injunction, I received a text from the Attorney regarding the injunction this morning. I texted Attorney Jackson to ask did he make it to the hearing; he indicated NO. Vice Chairman Daniels; regarding the text from Attorney Jackson; this board is the one with the injunction. Director Washington: the email that Mr. Jackson sent out had only the four individuals name; and the one item on the Agenda, he should have never mentioned the four (4) individuals name; it should have been the TOECRA. Michael Johnson- last week we were informed by our legal Counsel of the emergency motion in addition to the lawsuit that was filed by Brishaun Enterprises; that emergency motion that was supposed to take place in the courts last week on October 15, 2019; so Attorney Jackson was well aware that there was some type of potential legal action coming on the CRA; there was an ex-parte hearing, no one has to be there. The question is, did our Attorney know, YES, he was put on notice yesterday about this hearing, and he did not contact me or any member on this board to inform them, all we received today was his email after the fact. The court records clearly reflects Attorney Jackson being put on notice by the other legal counsel; this in the court documents; why he chose not to contact the board to have us prepared, I have no knowledge of that; Yes, he did say that he would be depositions today, but he had a responsibility to ensure someone was in the courtroom to defend this board, and that did not happen. **Director Sconions-** they are suing the CRA Board, we are all the Board, you can single my name out if you want to; but when it comes down to it, it's the entire board, to the chair; whatever we have to do as a board to make sure we are protected, you need to fight back with vigorous on it, this lawsuit is a bunch of mess and personal. For the Attorney not to be there to represent the Board, and not contact any board members regarding this injunction is an insult to this board. I want the right Attorney in place to defend this board. Director Cole stated we are talking about the Board being sued, but no one is

saying why. Chairman Washington stated this is a personal fight outside this board, since you are bringing this guy name up Director Cole, you know him very well. Chairman Washington- without having good legal representation for this Board from Attorney Jackson, we need to seek a firm to take over our CRA Attorney duties at this time to get someone here that can be fighting suits as they come up; to fight for the CRA, not certain individuals. Chairman Washington put a motion on the floor to release Mr. Jackson of his duties for the CRA Attorney; motion by Director Mack, the motion was seconded by Director Sconions; Director Cole asked Chairman Washington did he read Attorney Jacksons contract? Chairman Washington replied he will receive what is due to him; **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Director Hopkins; **NAYE:** Director Sconions; **AYE:** Director Cole; **NAYE:** Vice Chairman Daniels; **NAYE:** Director Mack; **AYE:** Director Gardner; **NAYE:** Chairman Washington; **AYE:** **MOTION FAILS- 4-3. Director Gardner-** Mr. Johnson has already told the Board to leave everything alone until it works it way out, if this was not set on the Agenda, you would be putting the cart before the horse; I have a lot of respect for Attorney Jackson, this is just not the way to do this, if we need to hire someone, then that is what we need to do. Mr. Johnson states it is up to this board on how they want to proceed, there are motions that have to be filed dealing with all of this; I have not received any direction from our legal Counsel on which direction he is going. Director Sconions, put a motion on the floor giving Mr. Johnson the authority to hire an Attorney to deal with this lawsuit; Motion by Director Mack, the motion was seconded by Director Gardner; **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Director Hopkins; **NAYE:** Director Sconions; **AYE:** Director Cole; **NAYE:** Vice Chairman Daniels; **AYE:** Director Mack; **NAYE;** Director Gardner; **AYE;** Chairman Washington; **AYE;** Motion Passes; **4-3.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Gardner- NO REPORT

Director Mack- NO REPORT

Vice Chairman Daniels- read email received from Attorney Jackson- temporary injunction granted for (60) days, preventing the TOECRA board from taking any actions relating to Eatonville Holdings and Classic Homes Development.

Director Sconions- NO REPORT

Director Cole- NO REPORT

Director Hopkins- I think that we have been very hasting in trying to pursue another Attorney, I think we need to hear what Attorney Jackson has to say, we are being presumtuous.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Angela Johnson- the conference that I attended was very educational and informative, thank the board for approving this conference.

Michelle Fort- the board need to take into consideration of the depositions of the lawyers.

7. ADJOURNMENT- Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY


Cathlene Williams, Town Clerk