

CRA BOARD MEETING

May 3, 2021

7:00 PM

This CRA Board Meeting was conducted utilizing Communications Media Technology. Some Staff members were present in the Commission Chambers while others were present via the Zoom application to respect the social distancing guidelines.

CRA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Presiding Officer (Not Present)

Harold Smith, Chair

Tambra Varnadore, Vice Chair

Tamara Cornwell

Sheldon Jones

Brian Williams

STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney

Jim Freeman, City Clerk

Jeff Burton, CRA Director

Mohammed Rayan, Public Works Director

Scott Tyler, Chief of Police

Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

Vanessa Cochran, Assistant City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:

Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

1. Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 8:17 p.m.

2. CRA BOARD AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: Mrs. Varnadore moved, Mrs. Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the May 3, 2021 CRA Board Agenda

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A question was asked when the decision will be made on the boat ramp parking, and Mrs. Varnadore commented that the Board is waiting on the results from the Council of Governments held tomorrow, May 4th.

Ms. Ware spoke about the property her family owned and MLK Park.

Ms. Rhodes addressed the apartments near Palmetto High School, and Mr. Burton, CRA Director, replied that the CRA is not involved with those apartments.

Ms. Sanders inquired about a house at 512 22nd Avenue East, and Mr. Williams responded that the Planning Department will check on it.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes: April 5th
- b. Legal Bills

Motion: Mrs. Cornwell moved, Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by staff with the removal of item 4B Legal Bills for discussion.

4.B LEGAL BILL DISCUSSION

Mr. Smith commented that he has not received the information requested on the total amount paid to West Coast Tomato. Mr. Freeman referenced an email that was sent on March 2, 2021 with the requested information.

Motion: Mr. Smith moved, Mrs. Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda item 4.B Legal Bills as presented by staff.

5. CONNOR PARK CONTRACT WITH STELLAR DEVELOPMENT (M. Barnebey/J. Burton)

Mr. Burton, CRA Director, gave a concise summary of the Connor Park Project. He expressed that the time limit is near regarding the stormwater pre-treatment using Southwest Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) funding and stated that the contractor is ready to start the project. Mr. Burton requested the Board's approval of the contract with Stellar Development.

Motion: Mrs. Varnadore moved, Mrs. Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Connor Park Contract with Stellar Development and authorize the CRA Presiding Officer or Chairman to sign.

6. CONNOR PARK LAND CONTRACT (M. Barnebey/J. Burton)

Mr. Burton, CRA Director, summarized the reasons for the contract and emphasized that it will eliminate a long-standing environmental concern for the City and the CRA.

Mr. Smith asked about the property clean-up cost, and Mr. Burton replied that it will cost about 1.1 million and will receive most of the money back in tax credits.

Motion: Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Jones seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the proposed contract between the CRA and 5th Avenue RR Holding, LLC, and authorize the Presiding Officer to execute the contract and sign all related closing documents to effectuate the transfer.

7. CRA DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Burton informed the Board that discussions have started with the Heartland Fertilizer Company property, and he gave an update on the job creation incentive with the County.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Elaine Johnson asked for clarification on the date and time of the developers' meeting, and Mr. Freeman, City Clerk, responded that the next CRA Meeting is on June 7th.

8. CRA PRESIDING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

None

9. CRA BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Smith inquired about the CRA's financial obligations and the First Baptist Church parking lot construction.

Mr. Jones asked about the CRA's open position, and Mr. Burton replied that applications are being taken and reviewed.

MINUTES APPROVED: JUNE 7, 2021

JAMES R. FREEMAN

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CITY CLERK