

City of Auburndale Community Redevelopment Agency Minutes May 15, 2023

Minutes of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Auburndale held on May 15, 2023, at 8:33 p.m. in the Commission Room of City Hall, after having been properly advertised, with the following members present: Chair Ellie Harper, Vice Chair Tim Pospichal, Dr. Dorothea Taylor Bogert, Keith Cowie, Richard Hamann, Jack Myers, and Bill Sterling. Also present: Assistant City Manager Amy Palmer and City Clerk Brandon Henry.

**Motion** by Dorothea Taylor Bogert, seconded by Keith Cowie, to approve the Community Redevelopment Agency Minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting. Upon vote, all ayes.

Assistant City Manager Amy Palmer announced that since the last Community Redevelopment Agency meeting when we amended our grant program, she is presently working with an applicant who will have a larger investment project at the hotel property. It is very exciting, and we will continue to work with him as he builds his project and puts his application together.

Chair Ellie Harper asked if there were any requests to add additional items to the agenda. There was none.

She asked if there was public comment on any item not on the agenda.

Maulissa Braverman, 1918 Lake Ariana Boulevard, said she saw that the City of Haines City has a volunteer Community Redevelopment Agency board. They do things like painting homes or planting flowers for beautifying neighborhoods. She wonders if we have anything like that or can we have something like that. What is the process of creating a volunteer board for the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Assistant City Manager Palmer answered the actions that the Community Redevelopment Agency takes must be part of the Community Redevelopment Plan. So we would take a look at the plan to see if there are any activities that a volunteer board could take or do. That is something we can talk about after the meeting.

## **1. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 23/24 AND FISCAL YEAR 24/25**

Assistant City Manager Palmer said the proposed Fiscal Year 23/24 and Fiscal Year 24/25 Budgets being presented at this time reflect the previously approved Capital Improvement Plan projects in the first two years of the five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

In addition to general operational expenses, the proposed Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget provides Community Redevelopment Agency funding for the following Capital Improvement Plan approved projects:

- \$2,500,000 for Civic Center Design-Build project (formerly Park Street Commercial)
- \$1,500,000 for Streetscape projects – Howard Street and Palmetto Street

The Civic Center Design-Build project has budgeted \$3.5 million in reserves since 2021. \$1 million was budgeted in last Fiscal Year 22/23 for design work, and this \$2.5 million in Fiscal Year 23/24 represents the final expenditure from the Community Redevelopment Agency in designing and relocating the Civic Center from downtown to Lake Ariana Park. The two streetscape projects for Howard and Palmetto Street are currently in engineering and are being budgeted for construction in Fiscal Year 23/24.

In addition to general operational expenses, the proposed Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget provides Community Redevelopment Agency funding for the following Capital Improvement Plan approved projects:

- \$750,000 to Underground Electric Utilities around Lake Stella
- \$150,000 for the US Hwy 92 Commercial Corridor Plan
- \$500,000 for Main Street Streetscape Reserves

The proposed Fiscal Year 23/24 and Fiscal Year 24/25 Community Redevelopment Agency Budgets for expenses and revenues are balanced.

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If approved by the Community Redevelopment Agency Board, the Community Redevelopment Agency Budgets will be included with the City's Annual Budget and presented at Public Hearings in September.

Assistant City Manager Palmer presented tables of revenues and expenditures.

Staff recommends approval of the Fiscal Year 23/24 and Fiscal Year 24/25 Community Redevelopment Agency Budgets.

Chair Harper asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Motion** by Dorothea Taylor Bogert, seconded by Vice Chair Pospichal, to approve the Fiscal Year 23/24 and Fiscal Year 24/25 Community Redevelopment Agency Budgets.

Dorothea Taylor Bogert said she knows we do this based on what comes in each year. She has a request that if funds allow, we move up the US Highway 92 Commercial Corridor Plan. We have development starting, she would love to see something in place to help guide that development.

Assistant City Manager Palmer said yes, we can look into that.

Richard Hamann asked to clarify the location of US Highway 92 development, and the location of the corridor plan.

Dorothea Taylor Bogert clarified the location.

Jack Myers cited an example of a development happening.

Assistant City Manager Palmer answered it would only be the portion of US Highway 92 that is within the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Jack Myers asked to clarify some upcoming development and their relation to the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Assistant City Manager Palmer provided clarification.

Upon vote, all ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43:23 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.

  
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Brandon Henry, City Clerk