

City of Auburndale Community Redevelopment Agency Minutes April 21, 2025

Minutes of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Auburndale held on April 21, 2025, at 8:21 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, Alex Cam, Keith Cowie, Jordan Helms, 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 January 21, 2025 meeting. Upon vote, all ayes.

Assistant City Manager Amy Palmer said there is alarming legislation this year, Senate Bill 1242, which has Community Redevelopment Agencies across Florida on the chopping block. The bill has been amended twice and is much more palatable, and instead disallows renewal of such agencies, amongst other items. Staff is currently analyzing the text. The bill would be effective July 1st. We contemplated extending the Community Redevelopment Agency. We have the ability to have a 60-year life span. What would have to take place to extend it the full 60-years to 2050 would include an update of the Community Redevelopment Plan, and the governing board would have to approve the extension. Because our Community Redevelopment Agency was created before Polk County was a charter county, we would not need to get their approval, but we would let them know per notice requirements. Assistant City Manager Palmer said she is looking for consensus. We do have \$150,000 budgeted towards a US Highway 92 Corridor Plan. She said she would like to reallocate those dollars towards a Community Redevelopment Plan. She said she would like to find a consultant who has done this work and piggyback on another jurisdiction's contract, to get the plan underway. It may be something that is time sensitive. She is looking for direction from the Board.

Dorothea Taylor Bogert asked if it passed out of the Rules Committee today?

Assistant City Manager Palmer answered she checked this afternoon, but the website has not been updated.

Dorothea Taylor Bogert asked if Assistant City Manager Palmer is asking for a motion?

Assistant City Manager Palmer answered a motion would be more official than consensus.

Motion by Dorothea Taylor Bogert, seconded by Keith Cowie, to reallocate money to the Community Redevelopment Plan.

Dorothea Taylor Bogert said it is really important because of what is potentially coming down the pipe. We should get this set up and extend it. She explained the implications of the pending legislation.

Keith Cowie concurred. We are managing our Community Redevelopment Agency properly. Legislators feel that other cities are not doing that. We should do everything we can to protect our Community Redevelopment Agency.

Bill Sterling concurred. In 1990, we applied to be a Main Street City. We were not successful, but we learned that cities that were had Community Redevelopment Agencies set up. He described the history of the Community Redevelopment Agency in Auburndale.

Upon vote, all ayes.

Assistant City Manager Palmer said we have a Community Redevelopment Agency meeting in May, so she will give an update on the legislation and Plan Update then.

Chair Harper asked if there was public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no public comment.

1. PUBLIC AND STAFF SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW PROJECTS

Assistant City Manager Palmer presented and summarized the Community Redevelopment Agency calendar.

She said the current list of suggested projects is an on-going list and is amended annually according to public, staff, and Community Redevelopment Agency Board input.

An advertisement was placed in the local media on April 17th and posted on the City's website encouraging residents and business owners to provide input to the Community Redevelopment Agency Board on future projects.

All suggestions will be brought back before the Community Redevelopment Agency Board in May 2025, at which time the Board will consider amending the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to reflect a new "fifth year" to accommodate new projects.

Assistant City Manager Palmer presented the proposed Suggested Community Redevelopment Area Projects list. Staff recommends approval of the Suggested Project list to include the additional project.

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

Motion by Keith Cowie, seconded by Dorothea Taylor Bogert, to approve the Suggested Project List.

Dorothea Taylor Bogert commented on the Wiley Drive landscaping project, especially considering the passing of Coach Wiley recently. She asked if there were any comments or feedback from the public?

Assistant City Manager Palmer answered no.

Upon vote, all ayes.

Bill Sterling asked about the splash pad location.

Assistant City Manager Palmer clarified a possible location for the splash pad, in conjunction with other projects. She said she would like to organize the five-year plan a little better and start reserving funds and start a master plan for this location. It would be a great project for the Community Redevelopment Agency. It would take several years to complete. We can start reserving money for it. We have started reserving funds for the splash pad. We may rearrange some of the projects as we consider phasing within the master plan.

Dorothea Taylor Bogert said she thinks it is great to do a master plan, but people have been screaming about the splash pad. We have been telling them it is coming in three years. As we make that master plan, we need to keep that in the forefront. The biggest complaint about Lake Ariana Park was the splash pad, because it is already planned for Downtown three years out. For us to go back and change that, we would get a lot of pushback and people will be angry – because we have been promising it within three years. It needs to be the priority for the master plan.

2. AGENDA ITEM 2: PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 AUDIT — MIKE BRYNJULFSON

Mr. Mike Brynjulfson said he is here to go over the Community Redevelopment Agency's audit for the year ending September 30, 2024. It is now a separate audit from the City. Four years ago, legislation passed requiring a stand-alone audit for the Community Redevelopment Agency.

All are clean opinions with no findings.

He summarized the various disclosures, compliance checks, financials and balance sheets of the Community Redevelopment Agency's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit.

Bill Sterling asked to clarify who pays for the audit for the Community Redevelopment Agency?

Mr. Brynjulfson provided clarification.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:48:37 p.m.

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



Brandon Henry, City Clerk