

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held the Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023** via tele-/videoconference.

Chairman Ian Leonard called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 PM. Interim Board Clerk Carla Rhodes called roll.

Present: Ian Leonard, Maria Sharma, Christopher Collins, Gilbert Harden, Sr., Tasha Gainey-Humphrey, and Jose Javier Ramos*

Absent: Derek Davis

Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Carla Rhodes, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, and Robert Quevedo-Rodriguez, CRA; Jack Layne, DCA and Vanessa Rivera, Community Member

Ms. Rhodes advised the Board that, pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice(s) had been posted in the Courier-Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Office of the City Clerk.

Review of Minutes

Date of Meeting: December 7 and 14, 2022

Motion: CC, GH **Ayes:** IL, MS, CC, GH, TGH

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Mr. Leonard verified that everyone had a chance to review the Minutes and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting: January 11, 2023

Comments: Interim Executive Director Olivette Simpson provided details about the Community Meeting for the Yaffa Site Project to be held at Chestnut Street UAME Church on Tuesday, January 17th. Materials for the meeting are to be forwarded to the Commissioners in advance of this meeting. She also informed the Commissioners about a death in Commissioner Derek Davis' family. Mr. Leonard and the Board expressed their condolences.

Redevelopment Project Presentations

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action

The resolutions below were presented for consideration.

***01-11-23A** **Resolution Amending Resolution 11-12-16C that Authorized the Acceptance of a Grant in the Amount Not to Exceed \$1,800,790.13 from the New Jersey Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund for Environmental Remediation of the North Camden Waterfront Park (Currently Block 4, Lot 64; Block 746, Lots 18, 18.01 & 32; Block 747, p/o Lot 1 of the City of Camden Tax Map) in the North Camden Neighborhood to Update the Tax Map Designation of the Site and to Incorporate Required Grant Terms**

Motion: MS, CC **Ayes:** IL, MS, CC, GH, TGH

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson provided the Commissioners with background on this resolution during the Caucus.

**Note: Commissioner Jose Javier Ramos joined the meeting during the Voting portion of the meeting.*

Resolutions for Review and Action (cont'd)

01-11-23B **Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Camden for the Management of Funding for the North Camden Waterfront Park (also known as Sadlers Poynt Park) Designated as Block 4, Lot 64; Block 746, Lots 18, 18.01 & 32; Block 747, p/o Lot 1 on the City of Camden Tax Map in the North Camden Neighborhood**

Motion: GH, JR **Ayes:** IL, GH, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:** MS, CC

Comments: Ms. Simpson provided the Commissioners with background on this resolution during the Caucus. In this update, she stated that the Camden City Council adopted a similar action at its January 10, 2023 Meeting. Mr. Asselta advised Commissioners Sharma and Collins that, given their positions with the City, they would need to abstain from the vote.

01-11-23C **Resolution Authorizing a Sub-grant to the City of Camden in an Amount of up to \$50,000.00 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund for the Environmental Cleanup of the City-Owned North Camden Waterfront Park (Block 4, Lot 64; Block 746, Lots 18, 18.01 & 32; Block 747, p/o Lot 1 on the City of Camden Tax Map) in the North Camden Neighborhood**

Motion: GH, JR **Ayes:** IL, GH, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson provided the Commissioners with background on this resolution during the Caucus. Mr. Asselta advised Ms. Sharma and Mr. Collins to abstain from voting on this resolution. He also stated that this resolution had been considered and recommended by CRA's Audit/Finance Committee prior to the Caucus and Re-Organizational Meeting. He added CRA's By-Laws provide the Audit/Finance Committee members remain seated until succeeded by another appointee by the Board. Since action was not taken to add a third member during the Re-Organizational Meeting, Mr. Leonard's status on the Committee is unchanged.

01-11-23D **Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of 433 Stevens Street, Camden, New Jersey (Block 177, Lot 64 on the City of Camden Tax Map) Located in the Lanning Square Redevelopment Area for Purposes of Redevelopment**

Motion: MS, CC **Ayes:** IL, MS, CC, GH, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: None.

Public Comments

Ms. Vanessa Rivera was present and said she was in attendance to learn about the legislative process in the city. She was warmly welcomed by Mr. Leonard and Ms. Simpson.

Old Business

Mr. Leonard advised the Board of the need to appoint a third member to the Audit/Finance Committee. Mr. Asselta proceeded to called for nominations. Ms. Sharma nominated Mr. Leonard. This nomination was seconded by Mr. Ramos. There were no additional nominations. In a Voice Vote, Mr. Leonard was unanimously re-appointed.

Action has not been taken regarding Resolutions 03-09-22 E & F.

New Business

None.

Executive Session

None.

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

Mr. Leonard expressed sympathy about Mr. Davis' loss and described him as a key member of this body. He further stated it is a tight-knit team that gets things done. A Memorial Gift is to be delivered on behalf of the Board.

Adjournment

Mr. Collins moved to adjourn the meeting; this motion was seconded by Mr. Ramos and affirmed with a Roll Call vote by all Commissioners.

Mr. Asselta raised concern about when and if in-person meetings would resume in February, as previously discussed. Mr. Leonard remarked that the City of Camden Planning Board recently took action to defer in-person meetings until May 2023. He stated CRA would take a corresponding action and defer in-person meetings until May 2023.

This meeting ended at approximately 6:20 PM.