

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held the Monthly Caucus on Wednesday, November 1, 2023** via tele-/videoconference.

Chairperson Ian Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board Clerk Donna Arthur-Pettigrew called roll.

Present: Ian Leonard, Maria Sharma, Christopher Collins, Tasha Gainey-Humphrey and Jose Javier Ramos
Absent: Derek Davis, Gilbert Harden Sr.
Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Glynn Jones, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, and Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, CRA, and Jack Layne, DCA.

Ms. Donna Arthur-Pettigrew 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: October 4 and 11, 2023

Motion: Ayes:

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: November 1 and 8, 2023

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson informed the Commissioners a groundbreaking ceremony was held for 1800 Davis Street redevelopment project by developers The Michaels Organization and Virtua Health. The redevelopment project is new construction of a mixed-use building to integrate affordable housing units and healthcare. The groundbreaking was attended by Mayor Carstarphen, Congressman Norcross, State Representative Cruz-Perez, Commissioner Collins to name a few. The site is designated as “Oliver Station”, paying homage to Rev. Thomas Clement Oliver a conductor on the Underground Railroad who briefly lived in Camden, and Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver for her resilient advocacy of statewide affordable housing opportunities. Updates were provided for the Matrix Project Phase I in the Admiral Wilson Boulevard North area. Noting that the site (between 17th and 19th Streets) has been cleared and raising the elevations is in process. She also noted briefly the remediation contractor, has mobilized to the Yaffa Site in an effort to remove the remaining 56+/- tons of contaminated soil material.

Redevelopment Project Presentations

None

Resolutions for Review and Action

The resolutions below were presented for consideration. Mr. Asselta advised that action would be taken on the first two items on the agenda after which the Caucus format would commence.

11-01-23A Resolution Adopting the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency Budget for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson stated the Budget for FY 2022 introduced at the October Board meeting is approved by the State without any changes, and credited the hard work of Director Jones. Ms. Simpson also updated the board that prior to the Meeting a Public Hearing for the FY2022 Budget was held at 5.00 PM. No one from the public attended.

11-01-23B Resolution Authorizing the Addition of the Director of Finance to the List of Authorized Signatories for the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency's Deposit Accounts Held at PNC Bank and U.S. Bank

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

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson requested this Resolution be approved tonight adding Director Jones as signatory for CRA deposit accounts along with Commissioners Leonard and Davis.

11-08-23A Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with TRC Environmental Corporation to Provide Licensed Site Remediation Professional Services and other Environmental Services at the Cramer Hill Waterfront Park (formerly known as the Harrison Avenue Landfill), Designated as Block 809, Lots 7 and 13 of the City of Camden Tax Map for an Amount Not to Exceed \$99,965.00

Motion: **Ayes:**

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson informed the Commissioners TRC was engaged previously through an open and fair process. The contract with TRC for Licensed Site Remediation Services (LSRP) and other environmental services is expiring. She noted the Cramer Hill Waterfront Park formerly the Harrison Avenue Landfill is a complex 68 acre project involving remediation of the landfill and its closure, environmental closure of soils, oversight of the investigation, remediation, and investigation of on-site and off-site groundwater contamination, and air quality permitting. All environmental actions are required by statute to have the oversight and supervision of an LSRP. CRA solicited a price proposal from TRC for TRC's services for an additional period of twelve months. The CRA has existing EPA and State environmental grants to fund the additional LSRP and related environmental services required for the site.

11-08-23B Resolution Introducing and Approving for Submission to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency's Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 2023

Motion: **Ayes:**

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson informed the Board that the CRA Budget for FY 2023 is prepared for submission to DLGS. Mr. Jones added that upon DLGS' advice regarding one budget line item, FY 2023 will be submitted; and the FY 2024 Budget will be teed up for submission by end of the year.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

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

New Business

None.

Executive Session

None

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

None.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sharma made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Collins and affirmed with a Roll Call vote by all Commissioners. This meeting ended at approximately 6:40 PM.