

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 Camden City Hall, City Council Chamber, in Camden, New Jersey.

Chair Marilyn Torres called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01 PM. Board Clerk Sulena Robinson-Rivera called roll. Commissioner Bowman entered the meeting at 6:07 PM and Commissioner Davis joined the meeting at 6:16 PM.

Present: MT, SD, MS, VB, IL, and JR

Absent:

Excused:

Attendees: Saundra Ross Johnson, Mark Asselta, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, Johanna Conyer, James Harveson, Carla Rhodes, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, Anthony Martinez, Deirdre Williams, and Olivette Simpson CRA; Marc Riondino and Robert Corrales, City of Camden; Laverne Williams, 1605 Park Blvd; Mr. Torres; Barbara Kelley

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

Review of Minutes

Dates of Meetings-May 3 and 10, 2017

Motion: MS, IL **Ayes:** MT, MS, IL, and JR

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting- June 14, 2017

Motion: IL, JR **Ayes:** MT, MS, IL, and JR

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Johnson expressed earnest and sincere gratitude to the CRA Board of Commissioners, Mayor, City Administration, CRA staff and City of Camden residents. She sought to describe how moved she was by all the well-wishes she received over the past few weeks, including the heartfelt recognition received earlier in the week at the June 13, 2017 meeting of the City Council. She spoke to how deeply she enjoyed her nearly nine years as Executive Director of the CRA. Ms. Johnson communicated that grateful is a word that comes to my mind when reflecting on the impact of the transformative work she oversaw, directed, executed, and contributed to during her tenure as the Executive Director. She also noted that the work of the CRA has been immeasurable from the start, but that she made every effort to ensure the CRA did its part to make life better for the residents of the City of Camden. There were no further comments or questions.

Redevelopment Project Presentation

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action

~~06-14-17A Resolution Adopting an Amendment to the Bylaws for the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency Regarding Attendance at Meetings~~

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: This resolution was tabled until July 2017. There were no questions or comments.

06-14-17B Resolution Authorizing a Contract for Property Maintenance Services with Greater Camden Partnership d/b/a the Camden Special Service District for the NSP 2 Clean & Green Vacant Lot Stabilization Program Operated in the Cooper Plaza and Lanning Square Redevelopment Areas For A Cost Not to Exceed \$110,000.00

Motion: IL, JR Ayes: MT, VB, MS, IL, and JR

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Director Simpson clarified and defined the term rejected and explained that the proposal was rejected pursuant to the procurement protocols and subsequently negotiated with the successful contractor. There were no further questions or comments.

06-14-17C Resolution Authorizing a Contract with the Camden Special Services District, Inc. to Operate, Manage, and Administer the City of Camden's Safe and Clean Business Corridors Program in An Amount Not To Exceed \$ 411,600.00

Motion: IL, MS Ayes: MT, MS, VB, IL, and JR

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Director Simpson clarified and defined the term rejected and explained that the proposal was rejected pursuant to the procurement protocols and subsequently negotiated with the successful contractor. Commissioner Bowman asked for clarification regarding the area this contract will address. He also asked whether this contractor was related to Coopers Ferry/GCP. Ms. Simpson confirmed. There were no further questions or comments.

06-14-17D Resolution Authorizing a Grant to the Rowan University/Rutgers- Camden Board of Governors for the Preparation of a Housing Demand Study in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00

Motion: IL, MS Ayes: MT, MS, VB, IL, and JR

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

06-14-17E Resolution Recognizing the Exemplary Service of Executive Director Sandra Ross Johnson with the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency

Motion: IL, MS Ayes: MT, MS, IL, and JR

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

06-14-17F Resolution Appointing Olivette Simpson as Interim Executive Director of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency

Motion: IL, JR Ayes: MT, SD, MS, VB, IL, and JR

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: This resolution was walked onto the meeting agenda by CRA Board Council, Mark Asselta. The title, Resolution Appointing Olivette Simpson as Interim Executive Director of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency, was read into the record. There were no comments or questions.

Public Comments

Ms. Laverne Williams asked the number of vendors that submitted bids for resolutions 06-14-17B and 06-14-17C and whether NSP2 funds were associated with the projects. Director Simpson advised that each RFP had just one response and that only resolution 06-14-17B is funded with NSP2 funding. Ms. Williams asked for some understanding of the Rowan University/Rutgers-Camden Board of Governors (RRCBOG) and what the survey will measure. Director Simpson provided clarity of the RRCBOG role as fiscal agent to Camden Healthcare Taskforce and noted the housing demand survey will measure the desire of residents and public sector employees to live in the City of Camden. Ms. Williams asked to be included as a survey participant.

Barbara Kelly shared the date and time of the next networking event hosted by the Camden Business and Contractors Association (CBCA).

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

The Chairperson thanked Sandy Johnson for many of her deeds, her patience, and imparting her vast knowledge with her and other Commissioners. She also thanked all Commissioners for their attendance and participation.

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 PM on a motion made by Commissioner Ramos and seconded by Commissioner Sharma and affirmed via voice vote.