

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held the Monthly Caucus on Wednesday, March 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, Christopher Collins, Gilbert Harden Sr., and Tasha Gainey-Humphrey
Absent: Maria Sharma, Derek Davis, and Jose Javier Ramos
Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, Carla Rhodes, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, and Robert Quevedo-Rodriguez, CRA and Jack Layne, DCA

Ms. 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: February 1 and 15, 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: March 1, 2023

Comments: Interim Executive Director Olivette Simpson announced a transition in the role of Interim Board Clerk with Donna Arthur-Pettigrew being appointed to fill this role and Carla Rhodes transitioning out after two terms of service. Ms. Simpson thanked Ms. Rhodes for committed performance in this role as well as in training of the new appointee. The Board also thanked Ms. Rhodes and welcomed Ms. Arthur-Pettigrew.

Ms. Simpson also reported on the Agency's progress with the 3.5 acre, city-owned Elijah Perry Park Remediation/Improvements project. She and Commissioner Christopher Collins participated in the virtual February 28, 2023 community update about the \$3.6+ million project presented in partnership with the City of Camden, Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC), and Camden Community Partnership (CCP). The remediation phase of the Project will be underway soon. Mr. Collins expressed excitement for the speed with which progress was taking place, thanked all of the partners who made it possible. He also expressed the coaches' concern for safety for youth who will participate in organized sports at the Park and need for bathroom and concession amenities. Ms. Simpson thanked Mr. Collins for his support and continued participation in the Park Project.

Mr. Leonard thanked Ms. Rhodes and welcomed Ms. Arthur-Pettigrew. He also applauded Mr. Collins for attending the community meeting for the Elijah Perry Park project.

Redevelopment Project Presentations

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action

The resolutions below were presented for consideration.

03-08-23A Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with CME Associates to Provide Environmental Services for Air Emissions Permit Compliance in Connection with the Cramer Hill Waterfront Park (formerly known as the Harrison Avenue Landfill) Designated as Block 809, Lots 7 and 13 on the City of Camden Tax Map for an Amount Not to Exceed \$31,217.45

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson stated that CME participated in a competitive pricing solicitation directed to CRA's list of Pre-Qualified Environmental Firms and was determined to be the most responsive to the solicitation. The firm will be paid through existing New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and New Jersey Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (NJ HDSRF) grants. Ms. Simpson informed the Commissioners that this bid proposal is \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 less than it was a year ago. The duration of the contract will be one (1) year.

03-08-23B Resolution Amending Resolution 03-09-22F That Authorized a Professional Services Agreement with Marmero Law, LLC to Provide Legal Counsel Services in Connection with the Execution of Agreements Among the City of Camden, Housing Authority of the City of Camden, Saint Joseph Carpenter Society, and Camden Community Partnership for the FY2020 Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant by Extending the Term of the Agreement

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson proposed extending the current Marmero Law Service Agreement to permit the inclusion of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Implementation Partners for a Critical Community Improvements Plan for the Cramer Hill neighborhood at no additional cost.

03-08-23C Resolution Authorizing the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency to Adopt a List of Pre-Qualified Attorneys for the Year 2023

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson informed the Commissioners that a solicitation for qualifications for general counsel services had been issued through a fair and open process, and three (3) firms responded.

03-08-23D Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Brown & Connery, LLP for the Provision of General Counsel Legal Services for the Year 2023

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson informed the Commissioners that a solicitation for qualifications for general counsel services was issued to CRA's list of Pre-Qualified Attorney through a fair, and open process and three (3) firms responded. The proposals were evaluated and the Brown & Connery proposal was deemed most responsive to the needs of the Agency.

