



## CITY OF LAWRENCE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

January 23, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Public Assembly Room

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** David Blount, Jerry Clifford, Dick Freije, Brian Hicks, Bruce Kimery, and Frank Sullivan.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Economic Development Director Cam Starnes, Corporation Counsel David Johnson, Controller Jason Fenwick, and Utilities Superintendent Scott Salsbery.

**Also present:** Chris Barnett (Lawrence CDC), and John Wolski (Ski Landscape).

**CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** President Jerry Clifford called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and announced a quorum.

**ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS:** All nominations were approved by unanimous decision as follows:

**President:** Mr. Hicks nominated Mr. Clifford and was seconded by Mr. Kimery.

**Vice President:** Mr. Clifford nominated Mr. Hicks and was seconded by Mr. Kimery.

**Secretary:** Mr. Clifford nominated Mr. Kimery and was seconded by Mr. Sullivan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Clifford asked the minutes from December 12, 2017 be approved. Mr. Kimery made the motion; Mr. Hicks seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims were submitted for \$244,778.56. Mr. Starnes provided a summary of claims and answered questions from the Commission. Mr. Hicks made a motion for approval thereof; Mr. Kimery seconded the motion. The Commission approved unanimously.

**STAFF REPORT:** The order of the agenda was rearranged in order to accommodate time with Corporation Counsel beginning with approval of professional services engagement.

1. **New Commission member:** Mr. Starnes welcomed Mr. David Blount as a new Commission member and thanked Mr. Bob Marien for his service.
2. **Staffing changes:** Mr. Starnes updated the Commission regarding his status as a contractor versus a City of Lawrence employee. Additionally, he noted the FHRA staffing changes and will continue to coordinate economic development efforts with the new Executive Director and Director of Operations.
3. **2018 Overview:** Over the next year, Mr. Starnes anticipates working with local business owners and the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce to develop and compile data for prospective developers, tenants, and brokers to demonstrate in numbers, the business growth in the Lawrence and Fort Harrison areas. Mr. Starnes also reported that the Lawrence Chamber will be replacing the former annual job fair with a symposium centered on tech, trades, and innovation in April 2018. Gerry Dick will moderate the event which will be hosted at the McKenzie Career Center. A 2018 Projects overview was recapped by Mr. Starnes as follows:

**Franklin Rd project:** Funding for preliminary engineering is still on track for a bid package in late 2018 with construction in 2019. DPW will be able to meet match portions of right-of-way acquisition and construction from recent budget approvals

**E. 59<sup>th</sup> Street:** Negotiations have been rekindled for the property at 59<sup>th</sup> & Sunnyside, and the seller has now received a signed letter of intent from Meyer Plastics. Mr. Starnes hopes to share more information at the next RDC meeting.

**Trades District:** Mr. Starnes has been monitoring Mission Mechanical permitting and demolition processes and looks forward to the final product and ribbon-cutting in the future. Mr. Starnes also noted that it is a positive re-use of the building and is pleased with having an active and productive employer in the building that otherwise could have remained a vacant eyesore for the community.

**7600 Pendleton Pike:** Mr. Starnes has been communicating with a possible prospect and will have follow-up conversations over the next few weeks. Utility work will be under way soon to re-route a sanitary sewer system that will hopefully make the site more attractive for development. This can also help to further advance the Trades District concept so that media and attention can be utilized to spur future interest and development.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **2018 RDC Meeting Dates.** Mr. Hicks made the motion; Mr. Blount seconded. The 2018 RDC meeting dates were approved by unanimous vote.
2. **Approval of professional services engagement with Taft Stettinius & Hollister for economic development consulting services.**
  - Mr. Starnes provided a summary of the Taft engagement and clarified the scope of his consulting roles as contractor with Taft and the City of Lawrence, as well as his basic operations and duties.
  - Mr. Clifford outlined topics of budget, operating expenses, and funding with deferment to Mr. Starnes and Corporation Counsel, David Johnson, as it related to the agreement.
  - Controller, Jason Fenwick, addressed questions from the Commission. At the Commission's request, Mr. Fenwick will work with Mr. Starnes to create an RDC budget and forward to the Commission prior to the next meeting.
  - In the interest of full disclosure, Mr. Hicks noted his relation to the current managing partner at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, but clarified he has no pecuniary interest in the contract.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion for approval of the RDC Taft engagement; Mr. Kimery seconded the motion. The Commission approved unanimously.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE RDC:** The Commissioners would like to recognize and thank Mr. Bob Marien for his years of service and dedication to the Commission. The next meeting which will be Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

There being no other business to come before the Commission, Mr. Clifford concluded business of the meeting. Mr. Sullivan motioned for adjournment at 4:56 p.m. and Mr. Hicks seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Jerry Clifford, President

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Mary Jo Rothenbush, Recording Secretary

*These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussion held, with the exception of motions.*