

**MINUTES
HARBOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2021 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Community Development Director, Louis Zunguze called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 in the Destin City Hall Board Room.

2. ROLL CALL & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Present

Mike Buckingham
James Green
Casey Jones
Sandy Trammell
Jan Best
Ian Blaise

Absent

Mike Raim

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk
Traci Goodhart, Planner
Louis Zunguze CD Director
Himangi Mutha
Daniel Butler
Michael Burgess, PS Director

3. CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN ELECTIONS

Chairman:

Motion to nominate Mike Buckingham as Chairman was made by Committee member Green with Committee member Best providing the second. The motion passed 6-0.

Vice Chairman:

Motion to nominate Jim Green as Vice Chairman was made by Chairman Buckingham with Committee member Jones providing the second. The motion passed 6-0.

*Chairman Buckingham welcomed new member Ian Blaise to the committee.

4. PUBLIC RECORDS/SUNSHINE LAW TRAINING:

Mr. Zunguze explained the City Attorney could not make this meeting and his presentation will be scheduled at their next meeting in February.

5. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: October 14, 2020

Motion by Committee member Trammell, seconded by Committee member Green, the members approved the October 14, 2020 minutes as written with a 6-0 vote.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ Zerbe Street/Calhoun Avenue Pedestrian Improvements

Mr. Burgess explained the purpose of the project is to provide an improved pedestrian access between Zerbe and Sibert to the westside of Calhoun Avenue and all the way to Clement Taylor Park. He

provided the members with the details of the project and how the contractor for the project will be installing a short boardwalk out in front of Clement Taylor Park where the stormwater retention area is located. He also mentioned how the decision was made to have Coastal Bermuda installed for the grass by the contractor, since it is a grass that is known to do well in coastal Florida.

Several spoke of their discouragement on how they all thought staff had agreed to bring all projects before them prior to getting approval from Council. As well as commenting on how come they were not involved in this project from inception because if they were, they would have made some recommended changes to Council prior to approval.

Mr. Burgess explained that this project was prior to his employment and he could not provide them the answer they are seeking however, he did inform them of the new Project Review Committee (PRC) that was formed this past summer where certain staff members meet and discuss all upcoming projects, how each project is assigned to a staff member who then is responsible to present them to its corresponding CRA District Committee, if applicable, prior to being presented to City Council.

Chairman Buckingham, at first thinking this project was going in at Leonard Destin Park, spoke of how he is against the type of grass and the boardwalk portion of the project and how he feels that the project would not be compatible to the surrounding properties, one being his next door. Once it was made clear that the portion of the project, he was referring to is in front of Clement Taylor Park, he still spoke of being against the boardwalk portion of the plan that is going in over the swales in the right-of-way and how he feels that it would be more economical, in the long run, to have pipes installed to move the water instead of a boardwalk. Noting that eventually the materials used will have to be replaced from wear and weather a lot sooner than concrete pipes.

➤ **Ordinances 20-16-LC / 20-17-CC**

Mrs. Goodhart explained to the members that staff is looking for a recommendation from them to City Council.

Committee member Trammell spoke of not seeing a difference between long term/short term – year-round versus the and long term/short term – seasonal and asked for clarification, noting that the season has gotten longer, and she does not see the difference and feels it is not necessary.

According to Mrs. Goodhart, she would take her comments back to staff to review.

Committee member Jones asked what they define a Seasonal Marine Vender. According to Mrs. Goodhart, it is someone who would come through Code Compliance to operate an ice cream type business similarly to Crab Island vendors that operate seasonally on the water in and around the harbor and Norriego Point.

Mrs. Goodhart also spoke of the Florida Statute that was passed not allowing municipalities to regulate Mobile Vendors. However, municipalities have the right to regulate business operations in certain districts and to permit their operations in certain timeframes. Explaining further that there is a process in place where Mobile Vendors must go through a Zoning Compliance application. This process allows staff to verify what location they are proposing to operate and to make sure they have proper permission from the property owners.

Vice Chairman Green made the motion for the Harbor CRA-AC to recommend the City Council approve Ordinance 20-16-LC and 20-17-CC as written. Chairman Buckingham provided the second. The motion failed 3-2 with members Best, Trammell and Blaise voting no, and Committee member Jones abstaining, due to being an owner of a Mobile Vending Food Truck.

Mr. Zunguze asked the Committee members to provide staff with input on what changes they would like to have in the document.

Committee member Trammell stated that what she feels the long-term definition of May to September needs to be removed, since the season is now longer than the old standard of 100-days of summer. Adding that she would support the ordinance if they would remove that timeframe.

Motion by Committee member Trammell for the Harbor CRA-AC to recommend the City Council approval of proposed Ordinance 20-16-LC and 20-17-CC with the changes of removing the length of a season "May through September." Committee member Best provided the second.

Committee member Green asked Committee member Trammell what she feels she gains by removing that verbiage.

According to Committee member Trammell, she feels it is redundant. With short-term being less than 72-hours and long-term being anything over 72-hours. And as far as special events, they would go under one of those categories. And Seasonal Marine could as well, even though Marine is a separate category.

According to Committee member Best, she feels that Committee member Trammell's statements are being proactive and avoiding a problem that may come up and the ordinance may need to come back to change the language.

Vice Chairman Green stated the language would enable the staff to track how many are seasonable and how many are year round. Allowing staff to know how much manpower they may need to at different times of the year.

According to Committee member Trammell, she agrees with the categories just not the months.

With no more discussion, the Chairman called for the vote and the motion passed 4-1, with Committee member Green dissenting and Committee member Jones abstaining due to ownership of a Mobile Vending Food Truck.

➤ **Committee member Comments:**

Committee member Best – Spoke of being the process owner for the Livery Vessel Work Plan item and how she has had several calls from some of the business owners with concerns and how they feel they are trying to do what is asked of them by the city. She spoke of how at some point, the city must trust and verify that when they are meeting with city staff, they mean what they say. Additionally, she would like to have further conversation about this topic and for this to be added to the agenda for their next meeting. She also mentioned how she is in the safety business and teaches all the lifeguards ~~and fire department personnel~~ *including the fire dept. and all the beach guards,* and no one asked for their input on the safety video that is being produced.

Mr. Zunguze informed the members that the Sheriff's Department is who is producing the video and that it is still a work in progress. Adding that the Livery Vessels has been discussed at the past three

Council meetings and will be discussed again at the upcoming Council meeting.

Committee member Best stated she understands the issues with Covid that has hindered everyone this past year but feels that this committee should have been more involved in those decisions. Adding that they represent the citizens of the city and if their voices are not heard, how then, can they make a decision that will sit well with everyone.

Mr. Zunguze spoke of how when he was hired, his number one initiative was to keep all of members of all the committees and boards up-to-date and yes, Covid has definitely made an impact this past year. But this is a new year and new staff they will do everything they can to keep them informed of the areas that within their purview.

Committee member Trammell – Asked that all information regarding the Harbor CRA come through them first so they will know everything that is going on, especially when they get calls from citizens. Adding they can help staff, if they know what's going on.

Chairman Buckingham – First apologized to staff for being initially confused on the location of the sidewalks for the project they discussed earlier. And thanked staff, but also asked them to keep in mind that they were appointed by Council for their district and to keep informed of all projects in the district. He spoke of his main goal is to clean the harbor up regarding Livery Vessels and asked for verification if that is what will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

According to Mr. Zunguze, the items being presented to Council for discussion on the 19th, they have previously met and discussed, are on-site boat storage in the off season, the OCSO safety video and how to move forward with the application process for Livery Vessel Application Process.

➤ **Public Comment:**

Mayor Gary Jarvis spoke of their Master Plans and how important it is and how they should know what their Master Plan is. As well as make their recommendations to City Council for its upgrades and approval. He encouraged them to attend the upcoming Visioning Session and for staff to bring the current one to that meeting for discussions. As well as attend Council meeting and provide their comments or have their Chairman attend representing them to express their vision. He explained that it is all a process and how he appreciates all their hard work.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

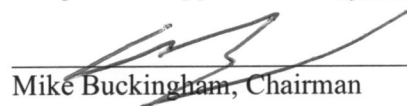
Mr. Zunguze introduced the new staff members in his department to the committee members.

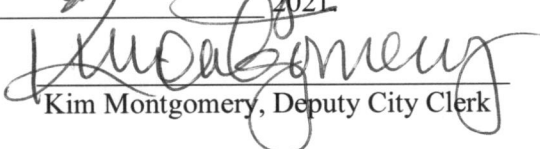
- **Next meeting: February 10, 2021**

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Adopted and approved this 10th day of February, 2021


Mike Buckingham, Chairman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk