

ALTOONA REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Minutes of Friday, March 18, 2016

The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Altoona held their regular monthly meeting on Friday, March 18, 2016 in the Fourth Floor Conference Room in City Hall.

Board Members Present: Don Devorris, Richard Fiore, Mayor Matt Pacifico, Louisa Lobre-Riley, Attorney Elizabeth Benjamin.

Staff Present: Lee Slusser, Nick Ardizzone, Jean Cupp, Bette Fischer

Guests Present: Bill Kibler, Altoona Mirror

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Don Devorris at 8:30 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Friday, January 15, 2016 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Richard Fiore and seconded by Louisa Lobre-Riley, which passed unanimously.

3. Finance

The financial report for the months of January 2016 and February 2016 for the Altoona Redevelopment Authority and the Altoona Transportation Center were presented by Jean Cupp. A motion was made by Richard Fiore, to accept the financial reports as presented. Louisa Lobre-Riley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

None at this time.

5. Solicitor's Report

Attorney Benjamin said that she had finalized a new 3 year lease agreement for Greyhound but has not yet received it back from Greyhound. However, the terms of the new lease have been implemented.

6. Other Business

Vacant Property

Mr. Ardizzone presented vacant and blighted land for sale.

1437 Washington Avenue

This is a 26.50+/-' x 121.0+/-' lot acquired in 1983. The applicant Edward Barnes, of 114 Penn Street, desires to acquire this property for "Community Garden/Living Food Bank" use. Sale price of \$100.00.

Blighted Property

1480-86 Washington Avenue

This is a 65.0+/-' x 73.0+/-' Irregular lot acquired in 2001. The applicant Edward Barnes, of 114 Penn Street, desires to acquire this property for "Community Garden/Living Food Bank" use. Sale price of \$200.00

1434-36 Washington Avenue

This is a 40.0' x 100.0' lot acquired in 2007. The applicant Edward Barnes of 114 Penn Street, desires to acquire this property for "Community Garden/Living Food Bank" use. Sale price of \$200.00

These three properties of various sizes acquired from 1983 – 2007 to be used for "Community Garden/Living Food Bank" use are being purchased by Edward Barnes for a total of \$500.00. Mr. Ardizzone explained that "Community Garden/Living Food Bank" is a non-profit group who do the gardening and then give the food away to those less fortunate. Mr. Devorris has asked that a follow-up letter from Mr. Barnes explaining exactly what his group intends to do, be secured as a means of back up protection for the RA in case of any legal issues that may arise. A motion was made to sell these properties to Mr. Barnes by Louisa Lobre-Riley and seconded by Richard Fiore. Motion passed unanimously.

Vacant Space Rental – Transportation Center

Proposal - Zoe' Cafe, is a start up social entrepreneurship company that is owned and operated by Building Future Bridges Foundation. Seek to rent the vacant space located in the transportation building. Would like to rent the space for \$200.00 a month lease, for 5 yrs. Willing to pay 5 months in advance rent. Space is 400 sq.ft.

Christie Jordan and her husband mentor at risk and troubled kids. This program will offer workforce development training, mentoring, counseling through the use of the Nehemiah Entrepreneurship Institute Program. The youth and young adults are paid apprenticeships through community partnerships, schools, faith based organizations.

The Zoe' Café will offer Whole foods, Organic produce and a Smoothie Bar.

A motion was made by Richard Fiore to rent this space to Building Future Bridges Foundation for \$200.00 per month with a 5yr lease and seconded by Matt Pacifico. Motion passed unanimously. Attorney Elizabeth Benjamin said she would prepare the lease.

Nick Ardizzone told the Authority that he had a phone call on Thursday, March 17, 2016, from Larry Dick representing CapForte, LLC wanting to know what needed to be done in order to move forward with their proposal on the acquisition of the properties they had submitted. Nick explained to him that after the initial presentation an article was written in the Altoona Mirror. Many of the neighbors of these properties came in and bought the properties, therefore what is left are only properties that are not buildable. Mr. Devorris asked that a total count of properites sold and how many remain be put together for the next meeting.

7. Adjournment

There being no other business, a motion was made at 8:45 a.m. by Louisa Lobre-Riley to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Matt Pacifico. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved by Louisa Lobre-Riley, Secretary