

April 12, 2022

THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY BOARD OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a regular meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at Lewiston City Hall. Interim Chair JoAnne Cole-Hansen called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: JoAnn Cole-Hansen; Don Beck; A.L. "Butch" Alford; Joe Anderson; Rick Tousley;

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Von Tersch, Community Development Director; Jennifer Douglass, URA Attorney; Aaron Butler, IT; Dawn Ortiz, Community Development Specialist, Luke Antonich, City Engineering, Mayor Dan Johnson - leaving at 12:22 pm

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

III. CONSENT AGENDA (ACTION ITEMS)

A. Approval of Minutes, March 15, 2022

Board members Alford and Anderson moved and seconded, respectively the approval of the consent agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

IV. DISCUSSION WITH MAYOR JOHNSON, HOW URA FITS INTO HIS ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Dan Johnson stated the URA and the city have a strategic partnership. Mayor Johnson looks at URA as a tool for the City or County, and municipalities in general. Would like to see URA address the basics such as public nuisances and blight. Become involved with private companies and let them invest first, and have URA focus more on infrastructure. Has no concerns moving forward and is excited to see what happens in the future. Mayor Johnson asked if URA is reimbursing Citizens to connect to the sewer in the east orchards?

URA attorney Jennifer Douglas stated the URA had legal concerns managing a reimbursement-type program. City of Lewiston was involved with the reimbursement to Citizens, not the URA.

Staff Laura VonTersch stated the URA financed the taps and service lines in the right of way only.

Chair JoAnn Cole-Hansen stated URA will move forward work together and balance each other out.

Mayor Johnson stated the City has money concerns for the projects coming up, but will work during the budget cycle to include these projects.

Chair Cole-Hansen encourages the Mayor and City of Lewiston to work through Council member Tousley, and bring projects to URA that City might like to focus on. Board member A.L. "Butch" Alford doesn't think we have strayed from infrastructure projects. The criticism he has heard is in regards to projects having public art and those who don't like tax increment financing, not a lot of public criticism regarding infrastructure. Mayor Johnson agreed with A.L. "Butch" Alford's comment. Need to work together, there is an opportunity for the public to be involved, and doesn't see the agency going away anytime soon. Recommends being aggressive in doing as much good as possible.

V. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Douglas requested a motion to table the amended bylaws. Ms. Douglas and Megan Conrad from Elam and Burke have additional recommendations to the bylaws that were not available during this meeting.

Board members Anderson and Beck moved and seconded, respectively to table the amended Bylaws. The motion carried 5-0.

VI. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2022-01 SIGNATURES ON OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. VonTersch summarized the request and need for resolution 2022-01.

Ms. Douglas confirmed that specific bills need to be approved by the agency before being paid.

Board member Beck recommended having a third person signed up and approved to sign checks.

Board members Alford and Anderson moved and seconded, respectively the approval of resolution 2022-01. The motion carried 5-0.

VII. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Member Comments

None

B. Staff Comments

Ms. VonTersch stated applications for open seats have been picked up, but none have been turned back in. The open seat has been advertised in the tribune and will soon be on Facebook.

Chair Cole-Hansen did ask Dan Marsh to apply.

Ms. Douglas shared that she hired an associate who happens to be Council Member Tousley's son. She does not consider it to be a conflict of interest.

Board member Anderson stated he attended the government affairs committee luncheon and the topic of housing and the need for all housing was brought up.

Ms. VonTersch will be attending CEDA program training, in regards to housing.

Chair Cole-Hansen asked if the need is only low-income housing?

Mr. Anderson stated it was for all housing. Saint Jo's and SEL were having recruitment problems because employees are unable to find housing.

Ms. VonTersch stated the legislature approved a housing trust fund, but we need a developer to partner with.

Ms. Douglas asked where do we send those developers to?

Ms. VonTersch stated to send them to Community Development or Idaho Housing Finance.

VIII. ADJOURN

There being no more business to come before the Board, Interim Chair Cole-Hansen adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:33 p.m.

Chair Cole-Hansen re-opened the meeting at 12:35 pm, to discuss moving the original May meeting to a different day.

Board members Tousley and Anderson moved and seconded, respectively to move the May 10th, 2022 meeting to May 17th, 2022. The motion carried 5-0.

There being no more business to come before the Board, Interim Chair Cole-Hansen adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:36 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ATTEST:

DAWN M. ORTIZ,
RECORDING SECRETARY

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY CHAIR

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2022.