

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES February 11, 2020

In Attendance

Councilman Anthony Byrd, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present, including Council Chairman Erskine Oglesby, Vice-Chairman Chip Henderson and Council members Carol Berz, Russell Gilbert, Darrin Ledford, Jerry Mitchell and Ken Smith. City Attorney Phil Noblett and Council Support Specialist Keren Campbell were also present. Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod was not present.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Vice-Chairman Henderson and seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the minutes of the last meeting (January 14, 2020) were approved as published.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Maura Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer, and Tyler Yount, Civic Engagement Coordinator; The Vecino Group: Heather Bradley Geary, Director of Supporting Housing; AIM Center: Donna Maddox, Interim CEO; Fire: Phil Hyman, Chief

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7B & 7C

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Next Week's Agenda: February 18, 2020

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6A

Councilman Henderson informed the Assembly that per their strategic planning meeting, this item should be removed from the agenda. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions - Agenda Items 7A & 7B

Councilman Mitchell inquired about the public being able to address their concerns about this resolution since they were not able to do so at the advertised public hearing, which had been cancelled due to inclement weather. Councilman Byrd ruled that time would be given for public comments following The Vecino Group presentation.

On the motion of Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Vice-Chairman Henderson, the public was allotted to comment two minutes per person following the Vecino Group presentation.

Resolutions - Agenda Items 7C, 7D & 7E

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

The Vecino Group/AIM Center Presentation

Ms. Geary and Ms. Maddox gave a presentation on The Vecino Group and the AIM Center that included information on the following:

- Vecino Group
- On State at a time
- Mission Statement
- AIM Center
- Mission
- 2019 AIM Overview
- 2019 AIM Housing
- Supported Housing Services
- Rick Manzardo – President (Vecino)
- Possible avenues of funding
- Supportive Services
- Partnership Set up
- Espero Chattanooga
- Example Projects
- Contact Information

Vice-Chairman Henderson inquired about the square footage of the project. There being no further questions, Councilman Anthony Byrd, Committee Chair, opened the floor for public comment.

- **Kenneth (Last Name Unknown)** – He is a volunteer at the Chattanooga Furniture Bank. He enjoys the work being done there and hopes that space could be found elsewhere for this proposed project.
- **Kelly Simmons** – She is the President of the Forgotten Child Fund. She feels that there has been no communication with the Fund regarding this project, which has been housed there for over 10 years. They feel blindsided and want to be part of the conversation.
- **Dan Huckman** (Highland Park Neighborhood Association) – His association is concerned with the residents that will be housed on the property, to which Ms. Maddox addressed. He would also like to assurance that, regardless of what happens to the property, the City would maintain ownership of the land, not a private developer.
- **Danny Ayala** – He is the Chattanooga Furniture Bank Director and would like assurance that a working relationship will continue throughout this process.
- **Jeannette Tucker** – She expressed concerns for the safety of children that are living in the area and the possible change in property value.
- **Angie McGregor** – She does not believe this project suits the direction of homeowners in the area and thinks that a rural area should be considered.
- **Tom Matuchuck** – He works at the Chattanooga Furniture Bank and recommended that other properties be considered because he does not think the project would fit in that neighborhood.

- **Patron (Last Name Unknown)** – As mother of young children living in Ferger Place, she is concerned for their safety and would like for the City to make clear the impact of this project.

During the time for public comments, Vice-Chairman Henderson inquired from Mr. Yount about the communication that has been had with those currently housed at the facility. He asked Chief Hyman about his knowledge of the project and stated that there needs to be more representatives at the table going forward.

Councilman Gilbert also expressed his desire for a lease agreement for years to come for the Furniture Bank and the Forgotten Child Fund.

After all speakers had addressed the Council, Councilman Byrd closed the public comments section of the meeting. He then expressed concerns about communication, particularly with those currently at the facility, and asked Ms. Sullivan to follow-up. He also asked Ms. Sullivan to continue the conversation via neighborhood meetings. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilman Byrd adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.