# REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM JANUARY 26, 2023

Town Hall at Bethlehem City Hall 10 East Church Street Bethlehem, PA 18018

### **MINUTES**

The Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Bethlehem met for a regular meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. in Town Hall at Bethlehem City Hall; 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The place, the hour and the date duly noted for the holding of this meeting was publicized.

Chairman Ronald Heckman called the meeting to order and the following members were present:

Earl Bethel Tracy Oscavich Christopher Spadoni

The Chairman called a quorum present.

Also present were:	
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Alicia Karner, Executive Director Hillary Kwiatek, City Council Liaison to the RDA Heather M. Bambu-Weiss, Board Secretary

# **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Bethel made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2022 rescheduled, regular meeting of the Redevelopment Authority. The minutes were emailed earlier to each member of the Board. Mr. Spadoni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes of the December 6, 2022 rescheduled, regular meeting of the Redevelopment Authority were approved.

#### APPROVAL OF CASH REPORTS

Mr. Bethel made a motion to the approve the cash reports for the months ended October 31, 2022 and November 30, 2022. These cash reports were emailed earlier to each member of the RDA Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Spadoni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the cash reports for the months ended October 31, 2022 and November 30, 2022 were approved.

### **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Since there were no members of the public in attendance, there were no comments during the Courtesy of the Floor portion of this meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Heckman turned the meeting over to Ms. Karner for her Executive Director Report. Ms. Karner provided the following update to the Board:

**PHFA Grant Opportunity** – Ms. Karner indicated that the City has been notified of an upcoming grant opportunity from PHFA. She noted that the grant funds will have a housing option as part of the application process. Based upon this, she added, the City administration is in the process of evaluating prospective projects to determine if any would qualify for funding through this grant. Ms. Karner indicated that if a decision is made to submit an application for these funds, the RDA may be asked to partner with the City on this application process. Ms. Karner stated that she will update the RDA as additional information become available.

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#### **APPROVAL OF REIMBURSEMENTS – JANUARY 2023**

Mr. Heckman indicated that the RDA Board has been asked to review and consider for approval the reimbursements as outlined on the January 2023 invoice summary.

Mr. Spadoni made a motion to approve the reimbursements to the RDA as outlined on the January 2023 invoice summary. Mr. Bethel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the following reimbursements were approved:

 \$7,260.59 represents reimbursement to the RDA from the Authority Fund account for various costs related to the Bethlehem Works / TIF District.

#### ADJUSTMENT TO 2022-2023 ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Mr. Heckman indicated that the RDA Board has been asked to review and consider for approval a proposed budget adjustment to the 2022-2023 Annual Administrative Budget. He noted that this budget adjustment is due to the extension of the consulting services agreement with Tony Hanna, which resulted in the RDA incurring an additional 6-months of costs during the 2022-2023 budget period.

Mr. Bethel made a motion to approve the budget adjustment, as presented, to increase the 2022-2023 Annual Administrative Budget by a total of \$12,600, which represents \$12,000 of additional consulting service costs as well as an additional allocation of \$600 for contingencies. Mr. Spadoni seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the RDA. As a result, the 2022-2023 Annual Administrative Budget was increased by a total of \$12,600 to include \$12,000 of additional consulting service costs as well as an additional allocation of \$600 for contingencies, an additional allocation of \$600 additional consulting service costs as well as an additional allocation of \$600 additional consulting service costs as well as an additional allocation of \$600 additional allocation for contingencies, which is 5% of the \$12,000 increase amount.

# ANNUAL MEETING

Chairman Heckman turned the meeting over to Mr. Riskin, who temporarily assumed the office of Chairman for the 2023 Annual Meeting and the election of officers.

Mr. Riskin reviewed the 2022 slate of officers for the RDA. Mr. Heckman thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as its Chairman during these past years but indicated he was not interested in serving as Chairman for 2023.

Mr. Spadoni made a motion to nominate Tracy Oscavich to be the RDA Chairperson for 2023 and that the remaining slate of officers remain the same for 2023 with Mr. Heckman replacing Ms. Oscavich in her position as Assistant Secretary / Assistant Treasurer. Mr. Bethel seconded the motion. As there were no other nominations for officers of the RDA, the nominations were closed.

Mr. Heckman made a motion to approve the 2023 slate of officers as presented by Mr. Spadoni with Ms. Oscavich as Chairperson; Mr. Heckman as Assistant Secretary / Assistant Treasurer and the position previously held by Ms. Grigsby to be vacant until her replacement is appointed. Mr. Spadoni seconded the motion. As there were no other motions made a vote was taken of RDA Board members. The RDA Board unanimously approved the slate of officers for 2023 with the following changes: Ms. Oscavich as Chairperson; Mr. Heckman as Assistant Secretary / Assistant Treasurer and the Assistant Secretary position to temporarily be vacant and filled when a replacement for Ms. Grigsby is selected.

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As a result of this motion and the unanimous vote, the following slate of officers was created for the Redevelopment Authority for 2023.

Redevelopment Authority of City of Bethlehem		
Slate of Officers – 2023		
Chairperson	Tracy Oscavich	
Vice-Chairman /	Earl Bethel	
Treasurer		
Secretary	Heather M. Bambu Weiss	
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Assistant Treasurer	Christopher Spadoni	
Assistant Secretary /	Ronald Heckman	
Assistant Treasurer		

Ms. Oscavich resumed the meeting as Chairperson and asked that the next item of business be the re-appointment of Michael E. Riskin, Esq. as Solicitor for the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Heckman made a motion to re-appoint Michael E. Riskin, Esq. as Solicitor for the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Bethel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and Michael E. Riskin, Esq. was re-appointed Solicitor for the Redevelopment Authority.

# **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

<u>Center Street project</u> – Ms. Karner provided an update on the Center Street project. She reminded the Board that the repairs to the exterior wall of 1218 Center Street were tried; however, after those repairs failed and the property was reevaluated it was determined the structure was unsafe and needed to be demolished. Ms. Karner indicated that the City of Bethlehem managed the demolition of 1218 Center Street and 1220 Center Street due to the emergency nature of the situation.

Ms. Karner reminded the Board that the RDA paid for the demolition of the structure through funds it received as part of a PHARE grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She also noted that some relocation costs associated with this project were also paid by these PHARE funds.

Ms. Karner also noted that the individual property owners own the land from where these structures were located and any decisions to reuse this land is for the property owners to make. Ms. Karner indicated that neither the City of Bethlehem or RDA has control of these land parcels.

<u>Skyline West Project</u> – Mr. Heckman inquired as to the status of the Skyline West project. Ms. Karner indicated that there are no new developments with this project. She noted that she would update the Board when additional information is available.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business, Mr. Spadoni made a motion to adjourn the January 26, 2023 RDA Board meeting. Mr. Heckman seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously carried. As a result, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Submitted by,

Heather M. Bambu-Weiss Board Secretary