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CITY OF UTICA

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
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**CITY OF UTICA URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
MEETING MINUTES –January 23, 2025
1 KENNEDY PLAZA, UTICA, NEW YORK 13502**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Councilman Joseph Betrus, Joe Burke, Danielle Faulkner-Forgas, Marques Phillips, Nick Brindenbecker,

EXCUSED: Mayor Michael P. Galime, Councilman Venice Ervin

OTHERS ATTENDING: Brian Thomas, Assistant Corporation Council Stephanie DiGiorgio, Cathy Mack, Gene Allen

CALL TO ORDER: By Brian Thomas at 9:05 am

ITEM #1 Approval of Agency Minutes

Councilman Joseph Betrus made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2024 URA meeting. The motion was seconded by Nick Bridenbecker and passed unanimously.

Old Business

No Old business

New Business

Item #2 Adoption of the 2025 – 2026 Budget

Prior to the meeting all URA board members were sent a copy of the 2025-2026 URA budget for their review. Brian Thomas presented the budget to the members and opened the floor for discussion.

Marques Phillips, with the factors established by the Agency, made a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 URA budget (with no changes). The motion was seconded by Danielle Faulkner-Forgas and passed unanimously.

Item #3 Approval of Annual URA Audit

The review and approval of the Annual URA Audit was anticipated for this meeting. At the time of the meeting the Audit was not completed and the board did not receive a copy to review prior to the meeting. Brian Thomas noted once the Audit is completed another meeting will be held.

Nick Bridenbecker, with the factors established by the Agency, made a motion to table the review and approval of the URA Annual audit. The motion was seconded by Joe Burke and passed unanimously.

Item #4 Settlement of 319 court St. eminent domain

Prior to the meeting all board members were provided with a Resolution Authorizing the Utica Urban Renewal Agency (“UURA”) to Settle the Eminent Domain Procedure Law Article 5 Proceeding entitled Matter of Court Street Development Project, LLC v City of Utica Urban Renewal Agency, (Oneida County Supreme Court Index No.: EFCA-2022-001196) (the “Litigation”) for review. Brian Thomas presented the Resolution to the members and opened the floor for discussion.

Joe Burke, with the factors established by the Agency, made a motion to approve the settlement. The motion was seconded by Marques Phillips and passed unanimously.

Item 5# Settlement of 500 Columbia St. eminent domain

Prior to the meeting all board members were sent a Resolution Authorizing the Utica Urban Renewal Agency (“UURA”) to Settle the Eminent Domain Procedure Law Article 5 Proceeding entitled Matter of Utica Urban Renewal Agency v 500 Columbia Street, LLC, (Oneida County Supreme Court Index No.: EFCA2022-01299) (the “Litigation”) for review. Brian Thomas noted the settlement must be validated by MVHS before moving forward.

Marques Phillips, with the factors established by the Agency, made a motion to table approval of the Resolution until such time as it is validated by MVHS. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph Betrus and passed unanimously.

Item # 6 Appropriation of Fund Balance

The following Appropriation of Fund Balance was submitted for Agency approval:

From:	URA Fund Balance	\$162,000.00
To:	CU58620.216 Property Acquisition	\$162,000.00

Appropriation of Fund Balance to cover the cost of the Settlement of the Eminent Domain proceeding entitled *Matter of Court Street Development Project, LLC v City of Utica Urban Renewal Agency*. The total settlement is \$194,000.00; we have \$41,000.00 encumbered in the property acquisition line so an additional \$153,000.00 is required. This also covers an additional \$9,000.00 for the 2nd payment to Seriani Signs for the new Business Park sign.

Marques Phillips, with the factors established by the Agency, made a motion to approve the Appropriation of fund Balance to cover the cost of the eminent domain settlement. The motion was seconded by Danielle Faulkner-Forgas and passed unanimously.

Item# 7 Adjournment

Councilman Joseph Betrus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 am. The motion was seconded by Danielle Faulkner-Forgas and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted this 23th day of, January 2025 by Gene A. Allen