

# **Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **October 17, 2017**

The first monthly meeting of the Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency (URA) was held on October 17, 2017 in city council chambers.

The following commissioners were in attendance:

Rita Conley  
Jimmy Dill, chair  
Lloyd Franklin  
Travis Martin, vice-chair  
Kirby Mouser

Also in attendance were:

Leigh Cockrum  
Mayor Shirley Washington  
Ryan Watley

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Jimmy Dill asked all commissioners to send him their contact information.

A draft of the Bylaws was reviewed and changes to be made noted. A revised copy will be e-mailed prior to next month's meeting for all commissioners to review before adopting.

Comments made during the review:

- We want to be able to use our own legal counsel. We need to be independent of the City and City Attorney.
- We want to include a public comments section for public buy in. The Pine Bluff City Council public comments guidelines will be used.
- All commissioners should be notified of committee meetings in the event they want to attend such meeting.
- Wants to ensure commissioners are covered by liability insurance.
- Need to identify other agencies such as this to adopt similar policies and procedures.

Visitor Mircha King was introduced. Mr. King previously worked for Southern Bancorp, as well as with the Delta Bridge Project. He has been involved in the Helena-West Helena area and understands the issues Pine Bluff faces. He attended the meeting to learn about the goals of the URA and to offer his assistance. Mr. King has recently relocated to the Jefferson County area.

Commissioners discussed the negative connotations tied to the name of "Urban Renewal Agency." Commissioners were urged to be aware of the history of urban renewal agencies and people are going to ask about it. There are other cities that still use urban renewal agencies and this group needs to

ensure citizens know we are working for the community and not everyone is going to be happy about decisions that will be made.

In other business, it was noted that monthly meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month in City Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 21, 2017.

We will check with the City Attorney's office about the necessity of commissioners need to file a financial disclosure form.

Chair Jimmy Dill stated the meetings will start on time if there is a quorum and wants to make the meetings timely and productive.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Leigh Cockrum  
Recorder