

**Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2020**

The Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency (PBURA) held its monthly meeting on January 22, 2020 at The Baim Law Firm.

The following commissioners were in attendance:

Jimmy Dill, chair  
Lloyd Franklin, Sr.  
Kirby Mouser

Commissioners absent:

Rita Conley  
Travis Martin

Others in attendance:

Maurice Carlton  
Leigh Cockrum  
Dee Herring Gatlin  
Daren Hale  
Larry Matthews  
Lee T. Ruth  
Maurice Taggart, Executive Director (ED), PBURA, via conference call  
Ryan Watley

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

The minutes of December 17, 2019 meetings were presented.

Commissioner Kirby Mouser made a MOTION to approve the December 17, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Franklin and was APPROVED.

The December 2019 financial statements were not available.

Executive Director Taggart presented the 2020 budget in New World format. The numbers are the same that were presented to the Commissioners last month, just in the format the City uses.

Commissioner Franklin made a MOTION to approve the 2020 Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency Budget as presented in the New World format. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mouser and was APPROVED.

\$74,000 was originally allocated for a retention pond. ED Taggart reviewed the recently completed Hardin Drain Study. The Economic and Community Development Department (ECDD) has the resources to complete the pond. ED Taggart asked the commissioners to allocate \$68,000 from the retention pond allocation to the design of the Hardin Drain Study.

Mr. Larry Matthews, Director, ECDD, reviewed the background of the retention pond to alleviate flooding, and the Hardin Drain Study:

- A grant was available in late 2018 the ECDD applied for and received. A drainage study was done on the Hardin Drain system. The report provided to the ECDD from the Civil Engineering Associates, LLC (CEA) listed four alternatives:
  1. Clean out ditches
  2. Retention ponds
  3. Pump stations
  4. All three above
- The ECDD chose the first alternative; clean the ditches as this would have to be done regardless which alternative would be taken. The ECDD asked the CEA to give an estimate on the engineering, design, and construction supervision to complete Alternative 1. The estimated cost provided was \$68K.
- The ECDD has some funds set aside for the Harding Drain. Mr. Matthews and ED Taggart have visited and thought it would be a good idea that the PBURA participate in this project.
- A contract has been signed with CEA to design and supervision on cleaning out the ditches, not the actual work. Funding has not been set aside to do the actual work which most likely cost over \$1M.
- The ECDD will apply for grants. Some of the 2011 sales tax money is left and can be used for the project. The plan has to be written before the ECDD can apply for grants.
- The study is being done now - \$60K; engineering design to come - \$68K; then the actual work will be bid out – cost unknown.
- The ECDD will also ask the county to help pay for engineering.

Commissioner Dill clarified with Mr. Matthews: the ECDD has paid for the study, asking the PBURA to pay for the engineering. The ECDD will then seek grants to pay for the actual work.

Dr. Watley stated that when the PBURA first started talking about the \$74K, it was for a matching grant that we waited two years for a retention pond. Last month when this topic came up, the commissioners stated they wanted to wait for the whole body to be present before deciding anything. Also since then, other things have transpired such as the hotel purchase.

Dr. Watley asked the PBURA to look at the other financial obligations they have in place before making a decision on the Harding Drain request. The Mayor's office has signed the contract, the city council will find the funding.

ED Taggart reviewed the 2020 Operating Plan. He prefaced the Plan with a recap of notable accomplishments in 2019 and then moved to the 2020 plan of action:

- Demolition – hope to demo 100 structures in 2020. The PBURA may be responsible for the demo of the bingo hall. February 28 is the earliest date the demos can resume
- Acquisitions
- Housing

- Move Theatre/Funzone
- Downtown Properties

ED Taggart confirmed the Operating Plan is in line with our Bylaws and statute.

In his ED report, ED Taggart introduced two new staff members, Tyrone Ruth as a roll-off truck driver and Maurice Carlton as URA Agent.

Public comments were made.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Leigh Cockrum  
Leigh Cockrum  
Recorder

/s/ Wm. Kirby Mouser  
W. Kirby Mouser  
Secretary