

Town of East Hartford

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6-19-19 Redevelopment Agency

A Regular Meeting of the **EAST HARTFORD REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY** was held in the Town Hall, Conference Room B, 740 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut on Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 12:04PM by Chair McCreery.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present:

Ellen McCreery, Chair
Gerry Maine, Vice Chair
Tony Matta

Absent:

John Ryan
Craig Stevenson

Others in Attendance:

Michael Daniels, Economic Development Coordinator

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. March 20, 2019. Mr. Matta made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Maine. **APPROVED.**

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

Burnside Avenue properties: The members reviewed a message from Town Engineer Doug Wilson regarding the status of the conditions at 550-560 Burnside Avenue relative to potential development. Chair McCreery expressed interest in finding out more about previous uncompleted development plans at the site. She also would like to determine if the owner of the building at the neighboring 580 Burnside Avenue would be interested in selling his property in conjunction with the abutting Redevelopment Agency properties, including Daley Court.

Tom Baptist, Project Manager and Interim Director of Public Works, is taking on the efforts to prevent parking at 671-673 Burnside Avenue, next to St. Rose School, and to beautify the site. The members discussed the possibility of selling the property along with the school if the parish wished to do so, but Mr. Matta said the parish intends to continue owning the school and leasing it to a tenant.

Area 1 and Area 2: Farmington Bank was acquired by People's United Bank, which closed the branch at 957 Main Street in January. Real estate broker Tom York has been invited to update the members on marketing efforts for the building and the vacant site next to it at a coming meeting. He has had some discussions with potential tenants but not been successful in securing one. The deposits at the former bank branch were low, meaning it may be difficult to attract another bank as a tenant.

The owners of the Downey Building at 1252-1256 Main Street have agreed to renovate the building within 18 months, but they have not applied for any building permits according to Greg Grew, Director of Inspections and Permits. If the building is not renovated in the 18-month time frame, a demolition order takes effect. The Redevelopment Agency must provide a written opinion that intended construction, alteration, repair, or modification is consistent with the Redevelopment Plan in order for permits to be issued. Chair McCreery said a Special Meeting may be held for this purpose if the owners apply for permits before the next scheduled meeting.

5. **PROJECT UPDATES**

- a. Mr. Daniels provided an update on the former Showcase Cinemas site. There were no responses to the RFQ to solicit developers, but another RFQ will be planned in the future. Demolition of the theater building is still planned for this summer.
- b. Mr. Matta provided an update on Goodwin College's campus improvements. A new retail building has been approved for construction at the corner of Main and Ensign Streets.
- c. The members expressed interest in being updated on any future developments at School Street Square.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. *MOTION* by Mr. Maine, seconded by Mr. Matta.
APPROVED at 12:47PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Daniels
Economic Development Coordinator

cc: Town Clerk
Development Department