

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**  
**Carnegie Training Room**  
**08:30 AM**

**Present:**

**Commissioner Randy Quick**- City- Ward Two  
**Commissioner Craig McDaniel**- City- Ward Three  
**Doug Walker**- City- Public Information and Marketing- Public Information Officer  
**Meredith Ulmer** - City- City Manager's Office- Assistant City Manager  
**Thomas Goggans** - City- City Manager's Office- Intern  
**Mary Hardin Thornton**- City- Finance- Special Projects Manager  
**Dylan Nelson**- City- Finance- Accountant Fixed Assets/Internal Auditor  
**Aundi Lesley**- Downtown Development Authority- Director  
**Bekki Fox**- City- Community Development- Director  
**Molly Majestic**- City- Community Development- CDBG Coordinator  
**Logan Drake**- City- Community Development- Administrative Program Assistant  
**David Crowder**- Rome News Tribune- Staff Writer

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM. Commissioner Craig McDaniel asked for any corrections to the minutes from the August 2022 meeting. Not hearing any, the minutes were approved by common consent.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT/ROME-FLOYD LAND BANK AUTHORITY (LBA)**

Bekki Fox:

- Fox gave a presentation on Community Development and LBA updates:
  - **Floyd Training Center (FTC):** Discussion was had on organization facts, building facts, national objectives, activity types and current needs/issues.
- Action Items: In order to fully fund the FTC project, \$239,711.00 worth of available CDBG funds would be helpful. The Department of Housing and Urban Development states that previous years' funds, that are moving slowly, can be reallocated to a project that can be completed quickly. Fox asked the Commissioners to approve allocating the following: 2020 CDBG funds (\$239,711) to FTC, 2021 CDBG funds (\$119,427) to Banty Jones Park, and 2021 CDBG funds (\$86,289) to Housing Rehabilitation. After discussion, they acted as follows:
  - Commissioner Quick motioned to move forward with the plan as described, which was seconded by Commissioner McDaniel. Motion carried.
- Fox continued the presentation on Community Development and LBA updates:
  - **Banty Jones Park:** After holding a bid proposal meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> with TSW and HGOR, TSW has been awarded the contract for this project. Considering the project is located in a qualified census tract, staff was able to submit a State ARPA fund grant application. In addition to the money already on hand, staff applied for \$2 million. Progress is being made. Staff also requested permission from DCA to use \$450,000 worth of RLF funds for the project. Discussion was had. Project funding was broken down in the following three categories: CDBG, secured and potential. The grand total equals \$4,258,962.15. If awarded the grand total, staff believes the project can be completed all at once without needing it done in phases. Commissioner McDaniel asked Fox to present this information to Caucus so that all the City Commissioners may hear about it.
  - **Home Rehabilitation:** One roof project was completed in October and two were completed in November. One paint and one roof project were put out to bid in November. Unfortunately, one roof project was denied due to it exceeding program limits.
  - **LBA:** Everyone received handouts of the 2022 LBA Snapshot summarizing the annual accomplishments. Fox announced that Floyd County recently agreed to award the LBA \$1 million from their ARPA fund. The following LBA Committees began meeting in 2022: Finance, Executive, Housing Development and Program/Partner Development. 303 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street will be rehabilitated. Beginning in January 2023, the

LBA will start two home builds. One will be a two-bedroom/one-bathroom house on Forsyth Street in North Rome with the other being a three-bedroom/two-bathroom house on Orchid Place in East Rome. The LBA also completed three training sessions with ePropertyPlus. Fox gave property updates stating whether said property is on pause, cleared, in-progress, sent to Attorney Allie Jett for clearing title, received or required.

## **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)/PARKING**

Aundi Leslie:

- Leslie provided updates on DDA/Parking:
  - Leslie thanked the Streets and Drainage Department for their help for installing all the Christmas decorations. All agreed that the decorations have been a success.
  - The RFP for the Small Business Incubator's architectural designs was put out but only one bid was received. The RFP was put out again. The bids will be opened tomorrow. The roof work was recently completed.
  - The awards program, which will recognize those individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions in 2022, will be held on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Mary Hardin Thornton:

- Thornton provided updates on special projects:
  - Dylan Nelson, Accountant of Fixed Assets/Internal Auditor for the City Finance Department, was welcomed. As he has taken on more job responsibilities, he will now regularly be in attendance.
  - The City Clerk Office renovation was a success.
  - Progress is being made on the Milner Building renovation project and Myra H riverboat project. The latter will hopefully educate young Romans on some local history.
  - A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, for the newly renovated Parks Hoke Park.
  - Work continues on the properties on North Broad and Covington Park.
  - Thornton stated she is contributing to the Floyd Training Center project as well.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 09:19 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Logan Drake  
Recording Secretary