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**HIGH SPRINGS
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES
May 31, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 6:53 p.m.

Invocation by Pastor Lowell James

Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Nancy Lavin- Present
Vice Chair Gloria James- Present
Member Byran Williams- Present
Member Scott Jamison- Present
Member Linda Jones-Present

STAFF PRESENT:

Ed Booth, CRA Executive Director
Kristina Wright, CRA Directors
Jenny Parham, City Clerk
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk
Courtney Johnson, City Attorney
Scott Walker, City Attorney
Antoine Sheppard, Deputy Chief
Bill Whitelock, Building Official

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Motion Member James to approve the agenda as presented.
Second Member Williams.
Motion carried 5-0.**

**DISCUSS FUTURE USE OF CITY OWNED LOTS IN THE DOUGLASS NEIGHBORHOOD.
CITIZEN INPUT AND SUGGESTIONS.**

Mr. Booth gave a background.

Chair Lavin asked citizens to come forward to give the board an idea of what they would like to see.

Doris Wright spoke as a resident of the Douglas Neighborhood. Spoke of wanting to see affordable houses, but does not want to see single wide trailers, tool sheds, or apartments. She would like affordable homes for families.

Brenda Wesley asked that the neighborhood be cleaned up.

Jana Morris spoke of over grown properties and would like to see the neighborhood cleaned up.

Pastor Lowell James asked if the High Springs Land Development pull out of the neighborhood. Chair Lavin explained the owner passed away. Pastor Lowell asked what parcels of land are owned by the City, and if there is a specific zoning for these properties. Mr. Booth advised that it is zoned for single family homes, but there is the capability for rezoning.

Tonya McGrunder spoke of wanting to see it cleaned up and would like to see something for the kids, so they can have something to do to stay out of trouble, like a game room or something. She spoke of having affordable housing to build up the neighborhood.

Joann Mahamery spoke of properties being overgrown, causing snakes and rats and would like for this to be cleaned up.

Geraldine Mack spoke of wanting to see the neighborhood cleaned up, speed limits looked at, and enforcement of noise.

Raymond Mobley spoke of being in construction and land development and in the process of doing small development, with 4 lots. He states he has a genuine interest in investing in the neighborhood and would like to help build value in the community.

Pastor Lowell James spoke of his interest in a lot next to their church for a multipurpose building and asked how they can find out about the lots that are to come back to the city. Mr. Booth advised to contact Jenny Parham, City Clerk.

Roger Robles spoke of living in the neighborhood and asked how the citizens can help build their community; could they look at zoning for businesses. He states that this could possibly help the citizens see how this could benefit their neighborhood.

Kristina Wright, CRA Director, stated that rezoning is always a possibility, and we can definitely work with the residents. She spoke of neighborhood outreach.

Chair Lavin explains that Ms. Wright is working on an extension of the CRA to extend to the Douglas Neighborhood and spoke of wanting to put a committee together from the Douglas Neighborhood. She asked for anyone interested to reach out to Ms. Wright.

CRA WORKSHOP MINUTES

May 31, 2018

Page 3 of 3

Stephanie Sewright, Affordable Housing Cooperation, states that they are there to educate on affordable housing as well as develop. She spoke of putting a plan together for the neighborhood. She spoke of her agency being very interested in helping to develop this neighborhood. She spoke of wanting to partner with the City of High Springs about the education on affordable housing and keeping residence in the housing.

Chair Lavin stated that Member Williams and Mr. Booth started this ball rolling.

Joanne Mahamery spoke of the lot next to her again. Mr. Booth advised that the Building Official was taking notes and will look into it.

Brenda Wesley asked about privately-owned properties that are over grown. Mr. Booth stated that a lot of those are owned by heirs and it is hard to enforce, but we do now have a Magistrate and can move forward with these issues. Mr. Booth stated that letters tend to work, but sometimes we will have to move forward.

Attorney Johnson stated that we have obtained lots through nonpayment of taxes, the City is not out acquiring properties. She states that we are working on cleaning up the properties that the City does own, and through the Code Enforcement process are trying to clean up the neighborhood.

Chair Lavin spoke of having affordable housing and that it will bring in forward movement in the neighborhood and this will start the movement for other issues to be resolved.

Geraldine Mack spoke of a house next door to her being vacant and people coming and going from there and wanting this taken care of.

Member Williams thanked everyone for coming out.

Motion Vice Chair James to adjourn.

Chair Lavin adjourned the meeting at 7:34p.m.