

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, September 10, 2018**

The meeting of the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee was held on Monday, September 10, 2018, at 6:17 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Burroughs, Chairman; Commissioners Townsend, Murguia (by phone) and Walters; and BPU Board Member Jeff Bryant. Commissioner McKiernan was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Gordon Criswell and Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrators; Angie Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Wendy Green, Assistant Counsel; Commissioner Johnson; Patrick Waters, Senior Attorney; and Ron Sutton, Sergeant-At-Arms.

Chairman Burroughs called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and members were present as shown above.

Approval of standing committee minutes from July 9, 2018. **On motion of Commissioner Walters, seconded by BPU Board Member Bryant, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 18355... UPDATE: INTEREST ON A DEMOLITION LIEN (3840 LLOYD AVENUE)

Synopsis: Update regarding the request of Myra Atkinson, on behalf of Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, to exempt the interest owed on a demolition lien levied against 3840 Lloyd Avenue, submitted by Patrick Waters, Senior Attorney. On August 20, 2018, the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Burroughs, deferred action and asked staff to look into the request further and report back the following month.

Wendy Green, Assistant Counsel, said as far as I am concerned, I think there were some questions maybe about the taxes that were on this property. I wasn't at the last meeting but I kind

of got brought up to speed and actually did some of the research into this project. As far as we know right now from the latest I have seen, the church has applied for an exemption for this property. They were granted an exemption from December 11, 2002, and forward so, all of the taxes from that timeframe have been abated and they are considered exempt. However, it did not cover 2002 so, the 2002 taxes from January 1 to December 11, 2002, are still due. That does include the demolition and I believe the request is just for the Commission to wave the penalties and interest, not the demolition fees.

Jeff Bryant, BPU Member, asked how much was the interest and penalty for 2012. **Ms. Green** said it was \$4,658.63. In comparison, the demo cost itself was less than that at \$3,942. The interest continues to accrue because they're clearly all delinquent at this point.

Commissioner Murguia said I've met with the church in regard to this and this, for me, I'd like to make a motion to make this exemption.

Action: **Commissioner Murguia made a motion to make this exemption.**

Commissioner Murguia said there's a lot of details in this, and the church was unaware that they had this property. There was a changeover in the leadership at the church. I think this is a no-brainer. I believe the church was going to pay off the back taxes and even the demolition before this meeting if they were able to. I think that if we grant this exemption, they're going to pay the demo and everything else off. We are only talking about the interest accrued. I truly believe that it was a mistake and an oversight by the church leadership at the time.

Myra Atkinson said I am a trustee at Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church and I wasn't aware of the taxes. **Chairman Burroughs** said you have heard this evening that there are a handful of months of taxes that are due. Do we have a total for that amount? **Ms. Green** said yes, as of August 29th, which I can get a correct amount. Now this amount does still include the penalties and the interest. For 2002, the taxes are \$81.11 and the demo cost is \$3,942.00. We're talking just a little bit over \$4,000 that would be due. **Chairman Burroughs** asked how do you feel in meeting that financial settlement this evening. **Ms. Atkinson** said that will be fine. **Chairman**

Burroughs asked will you be willing to pay that in a short amount of time and not over a period of time. **Ms. Atkinson** said yes, a short amount of time, yes. **Chairman Burroughs** said if that's acceptable, we have a motion.

Action: **BPU Board Member Bryant seconded the motion to make this exemption.** Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Bryant, Walters, Murguia, Townsend, Burroughs.

Adjourn

Chairman Burroughs adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

mbb