

## **MINUTES FROM A SPECIAL MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2019**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on February 21, 2019 in the Community Room at Washington Manor, 340 Thomas Blvd., Orange, New Jersey. The Executive Director advised that all requirements of the Sunshine Law were met. A roll call was taken as follows:

### **Present**

Chairman Ernest Williams  
Vice Chairman Joseph Juliano  
Commissioner Clifford Ross – Entered meeting 6:15 p.m.  
Commissioner Coram Rimes  
Commissioner Betty McLeod  
Commissioner Hashim Garrett  
Commissioner Francis Audain

### **Also Present**

Walter D. McNeil, Jr., Executive Director  
Brad Leak, Assistant Executive Director  
Leo Dugan, Esq., Feinstein, Raiss, Kelin, Booker & Goldstein  
Several Employees  
Several Tenants

The pledge of allegiance was said.

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Audain moved to adopt the agenda. Vice Chairman Juliano seconded.

Chairman Williams called for discussion  
No discussion  
A roll call was taken  
All Commissioners voted in favor.

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adopt and/or correction of the Minutes from a Regular Board Meeting on January 17, 2019. Vice Chairman Juliano moved to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Audain seconded.

Chairman Williams called for discussion  
No discussion  
A roll call was taken  
All Commissioners voted in favor except for Commissioner Rimes who abstained.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Brad Leak, Assistant Executive Director stated that HUD is excited about RAD. He said if we change the building to RAD we will not have a Capital Fund.

Mr. McNeil, Executive Director stated that the Budget will be on for the next Board Meeting to be adopted.

Mr. Leak said it is 80% completed.

Mr. McNeil said he will have a Finance Committee Meeting so that they can review it before the Board meeting.

Commissioner Ross entered the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. McNeil introduced Rebecca Soto, Tenant Relations Assistant to do a presentation for the Board of Commissioners on The H.I.G.H.E.R Project.

Ms. Soto explained to the Board that the H.I.G.H.E.R Project stands for Housing, Income, Growth, Health, Education and Readiness. She said the HIGHER Project is designed to provide knowledge, guidance, and resources to low income and under employed participants and family members. Ms. Soto said the vision is that the HIGHER Project is designed to address our unwaged participants in our Housing Choice Voucher Program to obtain gainful employed and become self-sufficient. It targets families who are considered "zero income" or less than \$5,000.00 gross per year.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

Nobody spoke.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 5521-19 Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange approving Bills Resolution No. 1910. Commissioner Rimes moved to adopt. Commissioner McLeod seconded.

Chairman Williams called for discussion

No discussion

A roll call was taken

All Commissioners voted in favor.

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 5522-19 Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange authorizing the Executive Director to secure September 9, 2019 with Brooklake Country Club for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament. Commissioner Garrett moved to adopt. Commissioner Audain seconded.

Chairman Williams called for discussion

No discussion

A roll call was taken

All Commissioners voted in favor.

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 5523-19 Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange approving Ernest Williams as a member on the Board of Directors of the Orange Housing Development Corporation. Commissioner Rimes moved to adopt. Commissioner Audain seconded.

Chairman Williams called for discussion

Commissioner Ross asked if there is anybody else on the OHA Board of Commissioners that would like to be on the OHDC Board.

Nobody responded

A roll call was taken

All Commissioners voted in favor.

Councilwoman Donna Williams entered the meeting.

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 5524-19 Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange engage the service of Netconnect . Commissioner Ross moved to adopt. Commissioner Garrett seconded.

Mr. Leak stated we received 4 responses from the ad. He said one was very high, one was very low and the other one had no experience. Mr. Leak said we deal with Netconnect and have experience his work and approves of his expertise.

Commissioner Ross asked who were the 4 that responded to the ad.

Mr. Leak stated BMT, Netconnect, All Solutions and Spinnertech.

A roll call was taken

All Commissioners voted in favor

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 5525-19 Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange authorizing the Executive Director to sign an agreement with Joanne Kureshepi pertaining to retirement. Vice Chairman Juliano moved to adopt. Commissioner Rimes seconded.

Chairman Williams called for discussion  
No discussion  
A roll call was taken  
All Commissioners voted in favor.

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 5526-19 Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange authorizing the Executive Director to sign an agreement with JoAnn Graham pertaining to retirement. Vice Chairman Juliano moved to adopt. Commissioner Rimes seconded.

Chairman Williams called for discussion  
No discussion  
A roll call was taken  
All Commissioners voted in favor.

Councilwoman Donna Williams suggested that the Orange Housing Authority and the City of Orange share services. She stated other Cities do this and found that it is cost effective.

Commissioner Ross asked Shanda Hammond, Housing Manager to include rent collections on her next months report.

Chairman Williams called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McLeod moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ross seconded.

Chairman Williams called for discussion  
No discussion  
A roll call was taken  
All Commissioners voted in favor

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter D. McNeil, Jr.  
Secretary