

NIAGARA FALLS URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
Minutes of Meeting March 27th, 2019
City Council Chambers – 745 Main Street
Niagara Falls, New York

Present: Mayor Paul Dyster
Council Member Andrew Touma.
Council Member Christopher Voccio
Council Member William Kennedy
Council Member Ken Tompkins
Mr. Michael Hooper
Mr. Robbins

Excused: Council Member Ezra Scott Jr.
Ms. Doreen O'Connor
Mr. Doug Mooradian

Staff Present: Mr. Anthony Vilaro
Mr. Doug Janese
Mrs. Michelle Shaughnessy

City of Niagara Falls: Thomas DeSantis

Mayor Paul Dyster called the meeting to order at 5:06 P.M. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of URA Meeting dated January 9th, 2019:

No changes to be made.

Motion to approve with this change was made by Council Member Touma, seconded by Council Member Tompkins.

POLLED VOTE:

In Favor:	7
Opposed:	0
Approved	Unanimously

Approval of funds for DRI Grant Preparation Consultants

As URA begins to move on projects in the Downtown Revitalization Initiative area, having funds available to complete those projects is of vital concern. One of the most effective project generators has been through the use of grant money. As such, URA requires a professional consultant to assist it in grant preparation. Securing grant funds allows URA to work on multiple projects simultaneously, and prevents it from missing opportunities when a good project comes along by having funds available.

We believe the sum of \$10,000.00 would be adequate to procure these services and allow URA to take advantage of all available opportunities to leverage funds and put as many resources into the initiative as possible. Also, we are exploring opportunities with several other

organizations to partner on grant preparation and application services. It is possible that we may be able to combine our investment with another organization and stretch our dollars further or even lessen our investment.

Council Member Touma asked Mr. Vilardo if this would help the Cities chances of obtaining the grant. Mr. Vilardo stated he felt the City had a very good chance at being chosen this year and with a grant writer he felt would help solidify it. If for some chance the City is not chosen, we could still take this material and apply towards other grants in the future as well as would include artist renderings to spruce up the applications.

In the past years, the South End was played upon and the grants were received. This year they would like to play upon improvements of the North Main Street area on the grant application.

Council Member Touma asked if the Board would be able to review the application once it is completed and Mr. Vilardo said absolutely.

Motion to approve was made by Council Member Voccio, seconded by Mr. Hooper.

POLLED VOTE:

In Favor:	7
Opposed:	0
Approved	Unanimously

Award for Niagara Gateway Consultant Services to Wendel

URA was awarded a grant from Empire State Development Corp. (ESD) to complete projects in the Downtown Revitalization Initiative area. As part of this initiative, URA requires a professional consultant to provide design, construction and consulting services. An RFP was drafted, published and posted, and two (2) responses were received. After scoring and deliberation by the RFP scoring team, it was determined that Wendel had submitted the strongest proposal.

Wendel will assist URA in identifying projects and properties to commit resources to, provide professional design and construction services, and assist URA in developing projects and infill in the target area. The cost of the primary proposal engagement is not expected to exceed \$80,000.00, and Wendel has offered to provide additional services (if needed) on an hourly basis. The cost for these services will be fully reimbursed to URA from the ESD Grant funds, meaning these services will require URA to expend its funds.

Mr. Vilardo stated Wendel would assist with marketing, branding, and also the Developers Forum that will be held. They would have a further reach then the City itself would have.

Motion to approve was made by Council Member Touma, seconded by Council Member Kennedy.

POLLED VOTE:

In Favor:	7
Opposed:	0

Approved

Unanimously

Old Business – None

New Business- Mr. Vilaro stated that a Capitalization Policy would be presented to the Board at next meeting. Also the Audit may be completed by then but if not then should be on the July meeting Agenda.

Adjournment-

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Council Member Voccio, second made by Council Member Kennedy. Unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 P.M.