

NIAGARA FALLS URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
Minutes of Meeting May 19,2021
745 Main Street
Niagara Falls, New York

Present: Mayor Robert Restaino
Council Member Christopher Voccio
Council Member Frank Soda
Council Member John Spanbauer
Council Member Tompkins
Mr. Doug Mooradian
Mrs. Doreen O'Connor

Absent: Council Member William Kennedy
Mr. Michael Hooper

Staff

Present: Mr. Doug Janese
Ms. Michelle Shaughnessy
Mr. Eric Cooper

Mayor Robert Restaino called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Agenda Items:

- 1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated: January 27, 2021** -Motion to approve these minutes with the year corrected was made by Council Member Voccio and seconded by Mr. Mooradian.

POLLED VOTE:

In Favor:	7
Opposed:	0
Approved	Unanimously

- 2. Appointment of Executive Director- Eric Cooper-**
Mayor Restaino introduced Mr. Cooper to the Board and stated that he feels Mr. Cooper will bring a new perspective to the City and this Board.

Motion to approve this Appointment was made by Council Member Voccio and seconded by Mrs. O'Connor.

POLLED VOTE:

In Favor: 7
Opposed: 0
Approved Unanimously

3. Presentation of 2020 Audit by Maria Brown-Informational

Mrs. Brown stated that the Audit went well, and noted to the Board that the Budget for Board is a calendar year, so from January to December. Ended at \$523,488.00 to fund/pay new projects such as the South end Gateway project. With tracking the South end Gateway project, 20% of total bill was for Phase 1 and Phase 11.

Old Business-

South End Gateway: Mr. Cooper stated the RFP deadline was March 26, 2021. Total of twelve (12) were received and are currently being reviewed. Councilmember Voccio asked Mr. Cooper if he was happy with those that were received. Mr. Cooper stated yes however some need to submit additional information/documentation that we are waiting for.

Mr. Janese stated that this RFP request was not the standard type that the Board is used to seeing. This one involved a huge net being casted as does include residential and business plan, which will be scored individually. Mayor Restaino agreed this is not a “normal” RFP request.

Mr. Cooper stated that he should have more information on the outcome of this RFP in the next month or so as they are being reviewed and scored and will update the Board at that time.

New Business-

Councilmember Soda stated that back in 1967, almost 40 years ago the URA Board was established, and should have expired by now, however keeps getting reestablished. Its main focus was to be on blight removal, and he would like to know the current purpose of the URA? Mayor Restaino stated he realizes that we are past the 40 year deadline. However, the City is currently looking into how to fill the URA hole if it is shut down, for incoming funding for the City. All of this is in talks currently.

Adjournment-

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Council Member Voccio, second made by Mr. Mooradian. Unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 5:16 P.M.