

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 23, 2017
200 Ross Street
13th Floor Wherrett Room
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) held a regular Board meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at 200 Ross Street; 13th Floor, Wherrett Room, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219 at 10:30 a.m.

Valerie McDonald-Roberts, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. The Commissioners in attendance were: Ms. Enid Miller, Ms. Valerie McDonald Roberts, Rev. Ricky Burgess, Mr. Leroy Morgan, Mr. Richard Butler and Ms. Janet Evans. Mr. Peter Kaplan was not in attendance.

Next, the Chair noted that the Board members had previously received a copy of the January 26, 2017, Board Meeting Minutes and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Janet Evans made a motion to approve the minutes and Leroy Morgan seconded the motion.

A vote being had thereon, the “Ayes and “Nays” were as follows:

“AYES”: Enid Miller, Rev. Burgess, Valerie McDonald-Roberts,
Richard Butler, Janet Evans and Leroy Morgan.

“NAYS”: None

The Chair declared the motion carried and the minutes approved.

Ms. McDonald-Roberts asked for a motion to approve the Activity Reports. Enid Miller made a motion and Rev. Burgess seconded the motion to approve the Activity Reports. The Activity Reports for January 2017 were presented to the Board. Ms. Joy Miller, gave a brief statement on the activity report which was previously provided to the board. A discussion was also had regarding the Somalian translators and 911 calls.

After a discussion a vote being had thereon, the “Ayes and “Nays” were as follows:

A vote being had thereon, the “Ayes and “Nays” were as follows:

“AYES”: Enid Miller, Rev. Burgess, Valerie McDonald-Roberts,
Richard Butler, Janet Evans and Leroy Morgan.

“NAYS”: None

Ms. McDonald-Roberts declared the motion carried and the Activity Report approved.

The Chair next asked if there were any comments or questions from Tenant Council Presidents, Section 8 Representatives or other public comments.

Representatives from Allegheny Dwellings and Fineview communities (Joanna Deming and Zeba Ahmed) addressed the Board regarding resident involvement in this process and that they are glad to be working with HACP on the redevelopment of the community.

There being no additional speakers or comments, Ms. McDonald-Roberts introduced the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION No. 7 of 2017

A Resolution – Authorizing the Executive Director or his Designee to enter into an agreement with Ballard Spahr LLC to provide Legislative & Regulatory Monitoring and related Consulting Services

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) seeks to engage a firm to provide professional and expert assistance to the Authority in its efforts to track and monitor legislative and regulatory developments at the federal and state levels; and

WHEREAS, the firm selected by HACP will inform and educate legislators, regulators, and other federal and state officials and staff regarding the Authority and potential impacts of proposed and approved legislation and regulation on the Authority, its programs and residents; and

WHEREAS, the HACP recognizes that actions taken by the United States Congress and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) could substantially change federal assisted, housing policy and programs and have a significant impact on the HACP and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the HACP recognizes that actions by the legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and various Commonwealth Agencies to create, change, or revise various housing and human service-related programs and policies could have a significant impact on the HACP and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the HACP recognizes the need for a dedicated effort to identify key decision makers in Washington, D. C. and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and to inform and educate those decision makers about the potential impact of proposals and actions on the HACP and its residents; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2016, the HACP issued Request For Proposals (RFP) #700-50-16 for Legislative and Regulatory Monitoring and Consulting Services and received two (2) proposals; and

WHEREAS, Ballard Spahr LLC was the highest ranked bidder and was determined to be the most responsive and responsible firm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh:

Section 1. The Executive Director or his Designee is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Ballard Spahr LLC to perform legislative and regulatory monitoring and consulting services as directed by the Executive Director or his Designee for three (3) years with two (2) one (1) year extension options at a price not-to-exceed a five (5) year total of \$237,537.00 to be paid from MTW funds; and

Section 2. Ballard Spahr LLC is not being engaged to take any action regarding any specific grant or contract award to the HACP and is specifically prohibited from engaging in any lobbying activity on behalf of the Authority.

Ms. McDonald-Roberts asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Enid Miller made a motion and Rev. Burgess seconded the motion to approve the Activity Reports, after which a vote being had thereon, the “Ayes and “Nays” were as follows:

A vote being had thereon, the “Ayes and “Nays” were as follows:

“AYES”: Enid Miller, Rev. Burgess, Valerie McDonald-Roberts,
Richard Butler, Janet Evans and Leroy Morgan.

“NAYS”: None

Ms. McDonald-Roberts declared the motion carried and the resolution approved.

RESOLUTION No. 8 of 2017

A Resolution - To extend the Employment Agreement of Caster D. Binion as the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2012, the Board of Commissioners appointed Caster D. Binion as the Interim Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP); and

WHEREAS, On February 28, 2013, the Board of Commissioners appointed Caster D. Binion to the position of the Executive Director of the HACP under the terms of an Employment Agreement which expired on March 31, 2015; and

WHEREAS, On December 18, 2014, the Board of Commissioners extended Caster D. Binion’s Employment Agreement to March 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined it is in the best interest of the HACP to retain Caster D. Binion as Executive Director and such have decided to extend his Employment Agreement and amend certain provisions contained therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh:

Section 1. Effective April 1, 2017, the Employment Agreement of Caster D. Binion, Executive Director of the HACP, is extended two years, in accordance with the amended terms and conditions of the (Amended) Employment Agreement; and

Section 2. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the HACP is authorized to execute the (Amended) Employment Agreement on behalf of the Authority.

Ms. McDonald-Roberts asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Leroy Morgan made a motion and Janet Evans seconded the motion to approve the Resolution.

Comments were made by each of the board members such that Mr. Binion's contract should be more than two years. Rev. Burgess stated that Mr. Binion was a "Treasure" to Pittsburgh and we are lucky to have him as ED of the HACP. Mr. Enid Miller "dittoed" everyone's statements.

A vote being had thereon, the "Ayes and "Nays" were as follows:

"AYES": Enid Miller, Rev. Burgess, Valerie McDonald-Roberts,
Richard Butler, Janet Evans and Leroy Morgan.

"NAYS": None

Ms. McDonald-Roberts declared the motion carried and the resolution approved.
There were no further resolutions.

Mr. Binion thanked his Executive Staff and the Board. He also addressed the Mayor of Pittsburgh and the executive orders. Executive Order 20170 states: Increase and improve the opportunity for the public housing residents..... and this order talks about what the housing authority needs to do with affordable housing and for us to come up with a plan and the housing authority will come back to the board. Next month we should be ready with a resolution that talks about strategies.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Mr. Binion addressed the board and spoke briefly regarding 2016 accomplishments and discussed how 2017 was going to be just as productive if not more as 2016. Mr. Binion also spoke about the HACP's contributions to the United Way.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

AJOURNMENT: Ms. McDonald-Roberts asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Enid Miller made a motion to approve and Richard Butler seconded the motion.

A vote being had thereon, the "Ayes and "Nays" were as follows:

"AYES": Enid Miller, Peter Kaplan, Janet Evans,
Richard Butler, Rev. Burgess and Leroy Morgan.

"NAYS": None

Ms. McDonald-Roberts declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Recording Secretary