

**HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022**

The Highland Redevelopment Commission (“Commission”, “RC”) met in a Special Public Meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana. President Sean Conley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Taking minutes for the meeting was Director Kathy DeGuilio-Fox.

Roll Call: Present in person on roll call were Redevelopment Commissioners Sean Conley, George Georgeff, Cy Huerter, Bill Leep, and Alex Robertson. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present: Pat Krull, School Town of Highland Representative and Non-Voting Member; Tom Black, Highland Town Council; John Reed, Abrahamson Reed and Bilse; and Kathy DeGuilio-Fox, Redevelopment Director were also present in person.

Also Present: Maria Becerra

Minutes of the Previous Meetings: None

Special Orders: None

Public Comment: None

Communications: None

Unfinished Business and General Orders: None

New Business:

1. **Discussion of Director Candidates:** Commissioner Sean Conley commented briefly in regard to the two candidates that had been interviewed. Commissioner George Georgeff brought Commissioner Cy Huerter, who was absent from the interviews, up to speed on the outcome of the interviews and announced those Commissioners who participated in the interviews had selected Ms. Maria Becerra as their choice for Redevelopment Director. Discussion ensued. Those commissioners participating in the interviews then recommended Ms. Bailey McGrath be hired as the new assistant. Discussion ensued.
2. **Selection and Conditional Offer of Employment for Director:** Commissioner George Georgeff nominated Ms. Maria Becerra as the new Director. Commissioner Bill Leep seconded the nomination. A voice vote was taken resulting in five ayes. Commissioner Georgeff stated that Ms. Becerra would not need Town insurance and suggested those monies be allocated toward increasing the salary of the new assistant. Ms. Becerra was asked if it is true that she has insurance through her husband’s employment in East Chicago. She agreed that she is currently covered although she stated that she was not sure of what the situation would be as to her continued coverage as an employee of the Town of Highland. John Reed suggested this was a situation that would need follow-up and that the Commissioners must be careful of transferring monies allocated for insurance out of that account for a different use. Ms. DeGuilio-Fox suggested that Mr. Reed speak with Dawn Kovacich, Highland HR Specialist, to determine if this is allowed and/or a sound idea. Discussion transitioned to the assistant position. Commissioner Bill Leep nominated Bailey

McGrath be hired as the new assistant, Commissioner George Georgeff seconded the nomination. A voice vote was taken and Ms. McGrath was nominated for the assistant position with five ayes. Discussion ensued regarding an increase to her salary. Commissioner Georgeff suggested the monies budgeted for the director's insurance be used for this purpose and also that there is monies currently unused in two other accounts, the Consultant account and the Legal Fees account, that could be transferred to increase the assistant salary. Discussion ensued with Ms. DeGuilio-Fox advising that legal fees and consultant fees were still needed for the duration of the year. She used Mr. Reed as an example stating that the commission had not yet paid his fees for June and July and that the remaining five months would also be invoiced and payment required. She also advised that the 2023 budget reflects the same amount because not only will the commission have to pay their attorney next year but they will also have to pay another attorney, especially if the Kennedy Avenue development projects begin because Mr. Reed is not able to represent the Redevelopment Commission during that development due to a conflict of interest. She advised that her concern is, and the commission's concern should be, sustainability of the budget. She advised it is not financially sound to budget for only the immediate future and not long term in the case of employee salaries and insurance. The Commission instructed John Reed to negotiate employment contracts with both Ms. Becerra and Ms. McGrath.

Action to Pay Accounts Payable Vouchers: None

Business from the Commissioners: None

Next Meeting: The next Public Meeting will be held on August 23, 2022 and convene immediately following the adjournment of the scheduled study session that evening. The Study Session precedes the public meeting and will reconvene following the public meeting, if deemed necessary. The next scheduled meeting of the Highland Main Street will be Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business to consider the Special Meeting of the Highland Redevelopment Commission was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy DeGuilio-Fox, Recording Secretary