

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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July 3rd, 2012

3:00 p.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** 6.28.2012

**LOCATION:** Conference Room B, City Hall

**TIME:**  3:00 p.m.

**TOPIC OF MEETING:** Changes to 2012-364

**PRESENT:** **Councilmember’s:** Lori Boyer, Bill Gulliford, Gregory Anderson, William Bishop

**Attendees:** See Attached Sign in Sheet

**Council Member Boyer:**

Actual start time of meeting 3:05p.m., stated her reason for the meeting. She wish to discuss the work she did in her proposed amendment. Jason Gabriel and Don Shea worked closely with her.

In writing the amendment, she looked at three different areas.

Primarily the Council Member attempted to deal with separation of powers. She acknowledged that there were some powers that the Administration needed on day one. She provided the example of appointing an executive director. There were other powers however that should be subject to Council approval until the plan is approved. Finally there were also powers that once the plan was approved, those powers should come about without council approval.

**Council Member Bishop:**

Felt that specific criteria should be part of the plan as a whole. There should be an all-encompassing global plan showing how the city would get to where it wanted to go.

**Council Member Gulliford:**

Agreed and stated that it was very important to look at the agreements as well as the plan.

**Council Member Bishop:**

Agreed and said that the agreements should not just be boiler plate language. They need to be specific and detailed for a downtown project.

**Councilmember Gulliford:**

Asked if anyone had forwarded the agreements to the appropriate agencies in Tallahassee. They work with agreements all the time. They are a resource that should be utilized.

**Council Member Bishop:**

Felt that was a good idea for the administration to carry out.

**Council Member Boyer:**

Stated she made another change. The power to borrow money should be limited to the amount of the unencumbered amounts in the CRA trust fund since the city has debt ceiling issues. To give the administration an unrestricted right to borrow money in the name of the city could be unwise. The situation could arise where one arm of the city was borrowing money while the other branches would not know. For this reason, she limited the amount that could be borrowed to the amount in the trust fund. This way the council would know the total amount of money the administration could borrow.

Council Member Boyer then explained another change. She stated that without her changes, the administration would have the power to close and vacate, streets, roads, and other rights of way. Right now, the JEDC did not have that power. That was something that had to go to council. She stated that she took this power out of the current bill.

**Council Member Bishop:**

Agreed with that change.

**Council Member Boyer:**

Stated that she pulled any new powers to zone and rezone. The council member acknowledged that the administration already had some limited powers to zone and rezone already. Those powers were left in the bill.

The Council Member then discussed placing CRA money in a trust fund for that district. The actual TIF money has to be spent in that district by statute. The way it was written as one fund seemed like it could pose problems down the road. She also stated that the TIF money that was used for administrative costs should be capped at 15 percent of the unencumbered annual revenue within the TIF. The 15 percent is based on the federal grant standard

**Council Member Anderson:**

Thought that 15 percent seemed too high.

**Council Member Gulliford:**

Agreed and stated that he could see a lot of pitfalls.

**Council Member Bishop:**

Stated that he urged both rules and finance to conduct these special once a week meetings until the legislation was passed.

**Council Member Boyer:**

Said she sought to address what happened to unused CRA Money. One section of the code is very clear. The money cannot, in any circumstances, be used for general fund purposes. That section follows right after a section that says anything that’s been in the CIP for 3 years, cannot be funded either. Meanwhile, there is another provision that says the money can be returned to the taxing authority if the city hasn’t used it. Since these two sections were in conflict, the city should create its own list of how that money can be used.

**Councilmember Bishop:**

This is a good thing to do. I don’t think TIF were ever meant to go on forever. I think that if they aren’t needed then it’s time to terminate them.

Meeting concluded at 27 after

**The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed.**

The following items have been submitted for public record. Please contact legislative services for these items.

 Meeting Notice

 Meeting Minutes

 Copy of CD Recording of Meeting

 Sign in Sheet