

LAND BANK COMMISSION MEETING

September 26, 2023

Paragould Land Bank Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall with Mayor Agee presiding.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Agee at 4:06 p.m.

Commissioners present were Kimberly Dale, Bobby Kasserman, Noah Tullos, and Pat Austin. Commissioner Keith White was absent.

Mayor Josh Agee, Director of Economic Development and CEO at the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce CEO Alliston Hestand, and Deputy City Clerk Tara Sexton were present.

New Business

As the inaugural meeting, Mayor Agee gave an informal introduction on the overview and goals of the commission, including a proposed salary budget for a city planner to be discussed with human resources. One large goal of the commission will be to obtain stakeholders within the community. Proposed bylaws were distributed to those present for consideration before the next commission meeting.

An information meeting for the general public was discussed.

Motion was made by Mayor Agee after a discussion by those present to establish the schedule of meetings for the Land Bank Commission on every 4th (fourth) Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. at City Hall. Seconded by Kimberly Dale. All in favor.

Those present discussed the possibility of economic development funds becoming available in 2025 should the commission decide to establish overlay districts. Mayor Agee discussed the beginnings of a timeline for establishing overlay districts in the next six weeks, along with residential design standards, and how that could potentially allow for monies to be proposed for those districts for infrastructure improvements in the 2024 City Budget.

Commissioner Tullos discussed the possibility of enticing builders in a potential overlay district if there were more than one property available.

Motion was made by Bobby Kasserman to establish a Mission Statement for the Commission. Seconded by Pat Austin. All in favor. The Mission Statement will be prepared and presented at the October 2023 meeting.

Discussion was initiated by Mayor Agee regarding establishing overlay districts, their boundaries, ideas for naming these districts, and how best to identify the districts. Materials from the Discovery Paragould 2042 project were distributed to attendees as supplemental research

when assessing future properties for consideration in the land bank. Allison Hestand discussed her research into the existing districts proposed by Discover Paragould 2042 project and the possibility of the commission looking into using community block grants if possible.

Mayor Agee discussed the possibility of hiring a grant writer for the city and their use by the Land Bank Commission.

Mayor Agee discussed the possibility of having a map made prior to the next commission meeting that shows the newly altered downtown historic district and inserting the Northend Neighborhood District, Labor Park Neighborhood District, and Midtown Neighborhood District alongside. The commission would then have a chance to discuss establishing these as overlay districts. Commissioner Austin expressed a desire for establishing parks/green spaces between and connecting districts.

Overlay design standards were discussed by those in attendance, particularly those used by other Arkansas cities with land bank commissions as research for future meetings and establishing overlay design standards for the City of Paragould.

Commissioners discussed the need for 6 to 7 acceptable house plans available to the public in the future who are interested in land bank property.

New mapping software was discussed by those in attendance as it relates to providing interactive maps on the city website for the public to use. The need for a dedicated page on the city website for the Land Bank Commission was discussed, as well as the need for a public inventory list and 'Frequently Asked Questions' tab within the new webpage. It was noted that the city's IT department would be able to create and maintain the new webpage.

Mayor Agee initiated a discussion regarding a weeklong Benchmark Trip to Greenville, South Carolina in the near future. The trip's purpose shall serve as research on a land bank of similar quality to that which the City of Paragould has established. Those in attendance will be able to meet with city planners and other city officials regarding their existing land bank.

A second research trip was discussed by those in attendance. This trip would be less than two days in length and would be to Paducah, Kentucky, another similar location. Commissioners who plan to attend would be able to meet with the city planner and tour overlay districts, as well as discuss successes and failures and how these may translate to our own land bank.

Motion was made by Kimberly Dale to appoint Keith White as Chair of the Commission. Seconded by Pat Austin. All in favor.

Motion was made by Kimberly Dale to appoint Noah Tullos as Vice Chair of the Commission. Seconded by Bobby Kasserman. All in favor.

Motion was made by Kimberly Dale to designate Tara Sexton as Secretary and Treasurer of the Commission. Seconded by Bobby Kasserman. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the commission, Commissioner Dale moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Commissioner Tullos. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 5:01 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith White', written over a horizontal line.

Keith White, Chairman

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tara Sexton', written over a horizontal line.

Tara Sexton, Secretary/Treasurer