**Community Redevelopment Agency**
**Regular Meeting Minutes**
**Council Chambers**
**August 6, 2025**
**5:00 PM**

## 1. Call To Order

Chair R. Henderson called the Community Redevelopment Agency meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Present: Reynolds Henderson, Cathy Mosley, Rob Hamilton.

Absent: Bruton Campbell-Work.

Also in attendance: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Executive Director Josh Ervin, and Administrative Assistant Sumie Gabbard.

## 2. FINANCIAL REPORT
### A. Item

Mr. Ervin presented the Financial Report.

**A motion was made to approve the Financial Report by Mrs. Mosley and seconded by Mr. Hamilton; the motion passed without objection.**

## 3. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT TRACKING SHEET
### A. Item

Mr. Ervin presented the Growth and Development Assistance Grant Tracking Sheet.

Mr. Ervin stated that he has received three new grant applications since the tracking sheet was attached to the agenda.

Mr. Henderson asked how much funding remains in the program.

Mr. Ervin stated that there is $50,000–$60,000 remaining for the rest of the fiscal year.

## 4. OLD BUSINESS
### A. Update of Veterans Memorial, request direction on next steps, and approval of Invoice 22455785 for payment.

Mr. Ervin presented an update on the Veterans Memorial.

Mr. Ervin stated that a decision was made at the previous city council meeting to disallow the Veterans Memorial at Chipley Park.

Mr. Ervin recommended putting this item on hold until a new location can be identified.

He also requested approval to pay Invoice #22455785 for work performed on concept drawings and attendance at the city council meeting.

**A motion was made to approve Invoice #22455785 for payment by Mrs. Mosley and seconded by Mr. Hamilton; the motion passed without objection.**

Mr. Henderson noted the need to get city council input on a new potential location.

Mr. Ervin said there has been a lot of back and forth, but engineering and conceptual drawings will be required once a location is decided.

Mr. Ervin recommended placing the project on hold and focusing on other projects in the meantime.

Mr. Hamilton agreed, stating that without a location, it doesn't make sense to waste time or resources.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**
**A. Request to adopt FY 26 budget**

Mr. Ervin presented the FY 2026 budget.

He stated that during the recent budget workshop, the budget was unveiled and the county set the millage at 3.575, causing a reduction of $5,055. This was adjusted from the operating budget.

Mr. Henderson asked if there were any questions.

**A motion was made to approve the FY 2026 Budget by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mrs. Mosley; the motion passed without objection.**

**B. Request to approve FY 25 budget amendment for FY 24 unspent revenue allocation**

Mr. Ervin presented the amendment.

**A motion was made to approve the amendment by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mrs. Mosley; the motion passed without objection.**

**C. Request to approve the invoice for payment regarding FY 24 Financial Audit**

Mr. Ervin presented the invoice for $6,750, which was budgeted.

**A motion was made to approve the invoice by Mrs. Mosley and seconded by Mr. Hamilton; the motion passed without objection.**

**D. Request to approve Task Order 25-03-CRA for Baldwin Avenue Restriping between 7th & 8th**

Mr. Ervin stated he contacted Three Notch Group (city's engineering firm). The order includes the bid process and potential survey work.

Base cost is $20,130, with a possible additional survey fee if needed.

Mr. Henderson asked if this was only for design—Mr. Ervin confirmed yes.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the project would exceed $20,130—Mr. Ervin confirmed yes.

**A motion was made to approve the task order by Mrs. Mosley and seconded by Mr. Hamilton; the motion passed without objection.**

**E. Request to approve Invoice 24-0251 for payment regarding 27 Crescent Drive Design**

Mr. Ervin presented the invoice of $5,000.

Mr. Henderson asked for a timeframe on project completion.

**A motion was made to approve the invoice by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Mrs. Mosley; the motion passed without objection.**

**F. Request to approve Invoice 4-264577 for payment regarding Historic Preservation Design Standards**

Mr. Ervin stated this brings total billing to 61.1% of the project.

**A motion was made to approve the invoice by Mrs. Mosley and seconded by Mr. Hamilton; the motion passed without objection.**

**G. Request direction on lighting improvements along portions of Circle Drive**

Mr. Ervin shared that Florida Power & Light provided proposals for matching lights.

Capital cost: $10,062.50
Monthly cost: $484.11 (10-year agreement)

Mrs. Mosley asked if the city would be responsible—Mr. Ervin stated yes, for two years.

Mrs. Henderson asked if Main Street had been consulted—Mr. Ervin confirmed they were involved in the parking working group.

Mr. Vallee emphasized that lighting should match the scale of existing lights.

Mr. Sconiers requested to explore what Chelco offers.

Mr. Henderson suggested tabling the item—Mr. Ervin agreed.

**H. Debt issuance discussion**

Mr. Ervin discussed the possibility of supporting $10 million in debt issuance, split across two issuances, based on revenue projections.

He requested board direction on whether to pursue.

Mr. Hamilton expressed concern over lack of defined projects.

Mr. Adkinson stated the debt would be for construction costs of board-approved projects.

Mr. Hamilton requested to hear more from the consultant before proceeding.

**6. REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA**
**A. City Marshal J. Hurley**
**1. Request funding to continue the operation of four Flock cameras for a period of 24 months.**

Mr. Ervin opened the floor to the City Marshal.

Mr. Hurley stated that in 2019, when he took office, he was told that he needed to support the CRA because there would be funding available that could help the police department.

Mr. Hurley presented what Flock cameras do and explained the program.

Mr. Adkinson asked if this is a public safety innovation brought on by rising demand within the community.

Mr. Hurley answered yes.

Mr. Adkinson asked if this reflects a need to increase surveillance rather than adding more police officers.

Mr. Hurley answered yes.

Mr. Adkinson asked if this fits with the current community policing initiatives.

Mr. Hurley answered yes.

Mr. Adkinson stated that other cities have implemented similar initiatives.

Mr. Adkinson asked if there has been an uptick in vandalism over the last couple of years.

Mr. Hurley answered yes.

Mr. Adkinson asked if this program allows for more control without requiring more patrols on the ground.

Mr. Hurley answered yes.

Mr. Adkinson stated that what the Chief is presenting would have a limited impact on the budget.

Mr. Adkinson explained that this is the first policing initiative that has been brought before the board.

Mr. Adkinson added that if the CRA wants to fund this, they are fully able to do so.

Mr. Adkinson stated that the CRA can fund this with the understanding that in the following year, it would need to be re-approved depending on the budget outlook for that fiscal year.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the CRA can fund this.

Mr. Adkinson stated yes, but clarified that he wanted to make sure all of this information was on the record.

**A motion was made to approve the funding to continue the operation of four Flock cameras for a period of 24 months subject to future funding year approval by Mrs. Mosley and seconded by Mr. Hamilton; the motion passed without objection.**

Mr. Sconiers stated that he strongly supports these cameras.

**7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
**A. Comm. R. Henderson**
**1. Railroad pedestrian crossing improvements downtown**

Mr. Henderson expressed interest in making crossings more usable and safe.

Mr. Ervin stated he would reach out to Three Notch Group and bring back a proposal.

**B. Comm. R. Hamilton**
**1. DeFuniak Springs Fire Station Improvements**

Mr. Adkinson stated that the CRA is able to fund improvements to the existing fire department.

Mr. Adkinson stated that the enhancement of livability has been used to improve structures.

Mr. Adkinson stated that a new fire department cannot currently be built, as that would fall under the city's Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Adkinson stated that permission must be obtained from both the city and the County Board of Commissioners.

With their permission, CRA funds can be used to renovate and improve the current fire department.

Mr. Henderson stated that Josh can work with Mr. Townsend to get in front of both boards.

Mr. Hamilton asked whether permission is needed from all taxing authorities, not just the ones contributing to the CRA.

Mr. Adkinson clarified that this refers to the taxing authorities to which the CRA is subject.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the fire department building is not in good condition and is not up to code.

Mr. Hamilton explained that there is mold in the building.

Mr. Hamilton said the board has discussed the fire department's needs and wants.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the goal is to make the facility usable.

Mr. Hamilton added that the department currently only has a very small shower.

Mr. Hamilton also mentioned that they are using a short ladder truck because there is not enough space for proper equipment.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he would like to direct Josh to work with Mr. Townsend and begin the process of getting approvals from both the county and the city.

Mr. Hamilton emphasized that the city needs to support the CRA in getting this done and not let it take another 10 years.

Mr. Ervin stated that there has been some discussion about building a new fire station.

Mr. Ervin said the city must decide what it wants out of a fire station.

Sharon Rene, a citizen of DeFuniak Springs, stated that the Fire Chief wants to keep the fire station at its current location.

Mrs. Rene said there is asbestos in the ceiling and tiles are falling down.

Mrs. Rene stated that she is strongly in favor of moving forward with improvements.

Mr. Henderson stated that anyone is welcome to attend these meetings and that they are open to the public.

Mr. Burney emphasized that a new building has been needed for over 10 years.

Mr. Burney stated that he wants the fire department to remain under city control.

Mr. Henderson closed the floor for citizen comment.

**8. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Approved:

Chair Reynolds. Henderson

ATTEST:

Minutes taken by Rafael Ali
City Clerk
*Proper notice having been duly given*

Mrs. Rene commented that there appears to be a lack of communication.

Mrs. Rene said the building should not be allowed to fall into such disrepair.

Mrs. Rene stated that this project should be at the top of the priority list because the building is not safe.

Mr. Hamilton stated that during storms, the fire crew has to shelter in the fire truck.

Michelle Kitch, a citizen of DeFuniak Springs, expressed concerns about where the fire crew would be housed during construction.

Mr. Hamilton responded that he spoke with the Fire Chief, and FEMA has agreed to provide one or two trailers for temporary housing while the work is being done.

Mrs. Kitch stated that she wants the city to do this project properly and not apply a temporary fix.

Mrs. Kitch emphasized the need for a functional and safe fire station and police station.

Randy Lightner, a citizen of DeFuniak Springs, thanked Mr. Ervin and Mr. Hamilton for their efforts.

Mrs. Lightner shared that she had to call 911 in April and it took 15 minutes for the county to dispatch an ambulance.

Mrs. Lightner stated that this is a long-standing issue and not a new one.

Mrs. Lightner said some people believe others oppose the county overseeing the fire department because they dislike the current Chief, but that is not true.

Mrs. Lightner emphasized that it is important to keep the fire department under city control.

Mrs. Lightner noted that every city fire truck is staffed with paramedics.

Mrs. Lightner stated that she has learned how important mutual aid agreements are.

Charles Burney, a citizen of DeFuniak Springs, stated that he was told by the city manager not to attend city council meetings.

Mr. Henderson responded that he encourages all citizens to attend and participate in these meetings.

Mr. Henderson added that he does not believe this is currently an issue.

Mr. Burney stated that too many temporary fixes have been made to the building over the years.