

# ESCAMBIA-PENSACOLA AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

August 3, 2021

A regular meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) was held at Hagler Mason Conference Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall, 420 W. Chase Street, Pensacola, Florida on August 3, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

*Board members present:* Paul Ritz, Heidi Palmquist, Justin Williams, Crystal Scott, Cecily Chundriek, Justin Williams, and Ann Hill, City Council.

*Board members absent:* Ed Browm, John Ralls, Laura Gilmore, Lumon May, Escambia County Commissioner and Renee' Wilhoit.

*Guests present:* Greg Darden, Carson Lovell Company; James Gulley, Westside CRA; Aretha Anderson; ERB.

*Staff members present:* Meredith Reeves, Neighborhood Enterprise Division Manager, Neighborhood and Human Services Department, Escambia County; Matt Shaud, Assistant County Attorney, Escambia County; Marcie Whitaker, Housing Director, Pensacola Housing Department; Tracy Pickens, Pensacola Housing Department; Ursula Jackson, Pensacola Housing Department.

1. **Call To Order and Welcome and Roll Call:** Meeting called to order. Paul Ritz, Chairperson, announced a quorum was not present; therefore, the meeting would be informational. Roll call was administered by sign-in sheet.
2. **Proof of Publication:** Notice of meeting published in the *Pensacola News Journal*. Notice of meeting also published on the City & County websites.
3. **Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson:** The election of the chairperson and vice chairperson was postponed as there was no quorum present.
4. **Overview of Sunshine Requirements – Escambia County Attorney's Office:** Matt Shaud, Assistant Escambia County Attorney, provided an overview of Sunshine requirements and public records requests. Handout provided.
5. **County and City Affordable Housing Incentive Plan Report Overview:** Meredith Reeves informed AHAC members of the changes to the Florida statutes, which now require annual reporting for the AHAC Committee and elected local officials from City and County to serve on the AHAC Committee. Meredith Reeves and Marcie Whitaker provided an overview of the Affordable Housing Incentive Plan report that was completed three years ago, based upon the recommendations of the AHAC Committee Members. Handout provided. Ms. Reeves and Ms. Whitaker suggested some incentives the AHAC Committee Members could recommend.

Heidi Palmquist, AHAC Member, asked about the status of SHIP funds. Ms. Reeves stated that SHIP has been funded. Ms. Palmquist asked has the city or county developed additional properties. Ms. Reeves stated that both city and county have continued to assist families through the Rehabilitation Program and First Time Home Buyers Program. In addition, Ms. Reeves stated that city and county both assisted families with COVID funds for rental and mortgage assistance. Ms. Whitaker stated the city will administer Emergency Housing Vouchers with COVID funds. Ms. Reeves stated that the county has identified four parcels for infill projects. Ms. Whitaker stated that Escambia County Housing Finance Authority will begin an infill project, which is possible because of Affordable Housing Incentive strategy "G", located on Jordan Street.

Crystal Scott, AHAC Member, asked what the definition is of affordable as it relates to the AHAC Committee. Ms. Whitaker stated that State definition provided by SHIP.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Greg Darden, Carson Lovell Company, announced City Council selected their team to enter into negotiations for the development of parcels 4 and 5 at Maritime Park. Mr. Darden presented the major components of the project which are affordable/work force housing, parking, and convention and banquet space. James Gully, Westside CRA, stated that Jim Reeves is developing tiny homes to provide transitional housing for individuals aging out of foster care. Mr. Gully stated that the County's ordinances do not support tiny houses, and the City would need to annex the property so that construction could begin. Mr. Gully suggested the city inquire about acquiring the property located at Baptist Hospital for affordable housing once Baptist Hospital moves to its new location.
7. **ANNOUNCEMENT/WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Meredith Reeves stated that Escambia County has extended the term of the current AHAC Committee members to December 31, 2021. Ms. Whitaker stated she will be taking an action to City Council to extend the term of the AHAC Committee members to December 31, 2021. The next AHAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

*Pending Approval*