

ESCAMBIA-PENSACOLA AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

November 01, 2022

The Escambia-Pensacola Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) held a scheduled and noticed Public Hearing in the Hagler-Mason Conference Room, 2nd Floor of Pensacola City Hall, 222 West Main Street, Pensacola, Florida on November 01, 2022 at 9:00 AM.

Committee members present: Ed Brown, Laura Gilmore, Brenton Goodman, Pensacola City Council President Ann Hill, Deborah Mays, Maya Moss, and Crystal Scott

Committee members absent: Patricia Mackovic, Escambia County Commissioner Lumon May, and Paul Ritz

Staff members present: Timothy Evans, Escambia County Neighborhood Enterprise Division (NED); Garrett Griffin, NED Division Manager; Clara Long, Escambia County Neighborhood and Human Services Department Director; Marcie Whitaker, Director of City of Pensacola Housing Department, Tracy Pickens, City of Pensacola Housing Department

Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call

Chairwoman Crystal Scott called the Public Hearing to order at 9:02 am. She asked for those present at the meeting table to introduce themselves, after which she acknowledged that there was sufficient attendance to establish a quorum of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Ms. Scott stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to review the completed Affordable Housing Incentive Plan reports prepared for both the City of Pensacola's City Council and the Board of County Commissioners for Escambia County, to seek public input on the reports and to approve the final versions of each to be presented to the respective governmental bodies. With the purpose clear, she first asked Tim Evans to present the final draft of the 2022 County's Incentive Plan.

Mr. Evans began by reading the opening paragraphs of the plan which provides the background of the State's efforts to address affordable housing throughout Florida through the institution of the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The legislative establishment of the Fund included requirements for local governments benefiting from the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program to form citizen committees for the purpose of reviewing the local policies and practices which might encourage or discourage affordable housing development. The now annual production of an Incentives Plan for each unit of local government is a requirement of the legislation.

Mr. Evans reviewed the plan's incentives A through K, highlighting those which had received new specific recommendations through the several months' work by the Committee (C, F, G, H, and J). Following the presentation of the plan the chair entertained a motion to approve the County 2022 Affordable Housing Incentive Plan as presented. The motion was made by Ed Brown and seconded by Laura Gilmore. It passed the Committee by unanimous vote.

The Chair then asked Marcie Whitaker to present the City's Incentive Plan. Ms. Whitaker stated that the City's Plan mirrors the County's plan in many areas, and always has. She drew the Committee's

attention to a few Incentive recommendations which have been addressed by the City Housing and Planning staff. The first was Incentive A, regarding expedited permitting. The City now has permit applications on its website as had been recommended by the Incentive Plan. Further, she mentioned Incentive J regarding local government list of government owned real property that might be available for affordable housing development. She stated that the City is beginning working with the County to identify property owned by the County, received through tax delinquency, that is within the City limits and might be transferred to City ownership for future affordable housing projects.

Following Ms. Whitaker's presentation the Chair entertained a motion to approve the City's 2022 Affordable Housing Incentive Plan. Ann Hill made the motion, seconded by Brenton Goodman. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Public Comment

The Chair stated the passing of the two Incentive Plan Reports was the full agenda for the Public Hearing and asked if there was anyone present who would like to address the Committee. Ms. Jewel Cannada-Wynn asked for greater clarity regarding the availability of publicly owned land for affordable housing development. She asked whether such land might be provided to individuals to build affordable homes. Mr. Evans clarified that it is State statute that dictates under what conditions property may transfer between governments, and from a unit of government to a community nonprofit to benefit the 'public good'. While state law allows sale of public land to private parties through auction, there is no provision for donation except to another governmental entity or to a nonprofit.

Adjournment:

There being no further speakers, the Chair adjourned the Public Hearing at 9:25 am.

Submitted by Timothy Evans