

Minutes

Remote Housing and Economic Development Committee

January 18, 2022

NOTE: This meeting was held via Zoom and can be viewed at this link:

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1695/Economic-Development-Committee> These

Minutes provide a record of those in attendance, general discussion taking place, and motions made.

A remote meeting of the Housing and Economic Development Committee (HEDC) of the Portland City Council was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Present from the Committee were Chair Pious Ali, and members Councilors Tae Chong, Roberto Rodriguez, and Councilor Andrew Zarro. Also present from the City Council was Councilor April Fournier. Present from the City staff were Acting Housing and Economic Development Department Director Mary Davis, Corporation Counsel Michael Goldman, City Tax Assessor Christopher Huff, Compliance Officer Heidi McCarthy, Principal Administrative Officer Lori Paulette, and Housing Program Manager Victoria Volent.

Item #1: Zoom Meeting Information – no Committee action required.

Item #2: Review and vote on January 4, 2022, draft meeting Minutes.

On motion made by Councilor Chong, seconded by Councilor Zarro, the Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to accept the Minutes as amended.

Item #3: Review and vote to recommend to the City Council the HUD Citizen Participation Plan

Mary Davis introduced this item by noting the City is required to provide a Citizen Participating Plan that outlines the methods and procedures by which the City will communicate with the public regarding the federal programs administered by the Housing and Community Development. Heidi McCarthy provided the most recent changes to the Citizen Participation Plan. Those five changes are; more comprehensive procedures and methods for providing outreach to

individuals who need accommodation or translation for meetings and documents, including a translation page; specific due dates outlined for important and vital documents to ensure compliance; streamlined definition of substantial amendment; generic language for future national emergency or disaster in Section 10; and updated methods for disseminating plans and documents. Staff recommended the changes to the Citizen Participation Plan be forwarded to the City Council with a recommendation to approve.

Councilor Ali thanked staff for their presentation and asked if Committee members had any questions. Seeing none, a motion for recommendation was introduced.

Chair Ali opened the meeting to public comment. Seeing none, the public comment period was closed

On motion made by Councilor Zarro, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez, the Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to forward the recommendations to the City Council with a recommendation for approval.

Item #4: Finalize Housing and Economic Development Committee priorities for 2022

Councilor Ali noted he plans to work with staff to bring forward a final Work Plan that includes priority items from each Committee member to be include during each upcoming meeting of the Committee. Committee members are asked to continue to bring forward items for discussion during future meetings.

The Committee held a discussion regarding the priority list. Members were asked to email their priorities to the Chair and cc Mary Davis. Councilor Ali will then bring back the Work Plan for the Committee's review during the next meeting of the HEDC.

Mary Davis noted staff is looking for direction from the HEDC regarding any changes to the Affordable Housing Development Application. The Committee held a discussion regarding the investment priorities for 2022 and agreed to adhere to the same priorities from 2021. Staff will bring the Affordable Housing Development Application to the Committee during their February 1 meeting for a vote for approval.

Item #5: Executive Session: Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(C), the Committee will go into executive session to provide staff guidance related to Fort McKinley Hospital property sale opportunity

The Committee will go into executive session to discuss providing guidance to staff related to Fort McKinley Hospital property sale opportunity pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

Councilor Ali asked if Committee members had any questions or comments. Seeing none, Councilor Ali requested a motion to enter into executive session.

On motion made by Councilor Zarro, seconded by Councilor Chong, Councilor Ali noted the Housing and Economic Development Committee would vote to go into executive session after public comment.

Councilor Ali opened the meeting to public comment, noting that after the executive session the meeting would be adjourned and no actions taken. Seeing none, the public comment period was closed. The Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to enter into executive session at approximately 6:21 p.m. At approximately 6:55 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session, and on motion made by Councilor Chong, seconded by Councilor Rodriguez, the Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectively submitted, Victoria Volent