

1 **City of New Bern**

2 **Redevelopment Commission Meeting**

3 **November 13, 2019- 6:00 P.M.**

4 **Development Services Conference Room**

5 **303 First Street**

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7 **Members Present:** Maria Cho, Chair Tharesa Lee, Steve Strickland, Kip Peregoy, Beth Walker

8 **Ex-Officio Members Present:** Alderwoman Sabrina Bengel

9 **Members Excused (E)/Absent (A):** John Young (E), Co-Chair Jaimee Bullock-Mosley (E),
10 Leander "Robbie" Morgan (E), Tabari Wallace (A)

11 **Staff Present:** Jeff Ruggieri, Director of Development Services; D'Aja Fulmore, Community
12 Development Coordinator; Alice Wilson, GIS Manager

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14 **1. Welcome and Call to Order**

15 Chair Tharesa Lee called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. A roll call was delivered by Chair Lee.

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17 **2. Approval of Minutes**

18 Minutes were presented from the September 25th and October 9th Commission meetings. It was
19 noted for the correct location to be added to the October 9th meeting. Minutes were then
20 approved by the Commission.

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22 **3. Public Comment**

23 Local citizen, Robert Benjamin of 2608 North Hills Drive, stood to speak about the 3rd Avenue
24 extension and its potential effect on Stanley White Recreation Center. Mr. Benjamin told
25 commissioners he wanted clarification on the extension and suggested Chapman street be used
26 instead of 3rd Avenue.

27 Local citizen, Charles Benjamin of 1101 Lagrange Street, stood to ask the Commission how
28 could the extension possibly be safe if the extension will pass through a park.

29 Local citizen, Barbara Sampson of R149 Craven Terrace, simply stated that the extension is not
30 wanted, and members of the community would like people who better represent them to sit on
31 the board.

32 Local citizen, Victor Taylor of 2817 Walter Drive, stood up for clarity on the extension then told
33 local citizens to be ready to attend the Planning and Zoning Board meeting.

34 Local citizen, Robert Wallace of 1122 Raleigh Street, expressed that he would like to be able to
35 play football with his grandchildren at the park and having a road go through the park is not a
36 good idea.

37 Local citizen, Elijah Brown of 916 Fort Totten Drive, told the Commission that the extension of
38 3rd Avenue does not make any sense. Mr. Brown told the Commission to vote again and make a
39 change to the plan.

40 **4. Board Discussion on creation of “Frequently Asked Questions” page for**
41 **Redevelopment Commission Website**

42 Chair Lee opened the discussion for the Frequently Asked Questions page for the Commission’s
43 website. Chair Lee told commissioners that there needs to be an explanation on what the
44 Commission actually is so the public can have a clear understanding of its function.

45 Commissioner Steve Strickland suggested that questions that were presented at the community
46 forums be used as a baseline for what type of questions to be included on the webpage.

47 Commissioner Steve Strickland agreed, stating the importance of making sure the webpage
48 specifically answers questions Alderwoman Sabrina Bengel suggested that it also be explained
49 what eminent domain is and the connection between the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and the
50 Redevelopment Plan. Commissioners also decided that it would be good to include how
51 commissioners were appointed. Chair Lee mentioned the importance of addressing community
52 concerns around the extension of 3rd Avenue and the prohibition of mobile homes in the
53 Duffyfield community. Commissioner Strickland mentioned making sure the page addresses
54 plans for dilapidated homes and addressing flooding. Commissioner Strickland also expressed
55 the importance of making sure the public knows that the Stanley White Center is something the
56 Commission does not make a decision about and has no current update on. Ten questions were
57 created from this discussion and Jeff Ruggieri, director of Development Services, stated that he
58 would work to get these questions and answers prepared for the webpage.

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60 **5. Staff Presentation on “Story Maps” for Redevelopment Plan**

61 Alice Wilson, GIS Manager, came forth to present Story Maps to tell the story of the Duffyfield
62 community and the Redevelopment Plan. Mrs. Wilson guided the Commission through the
63 visuals, showing what was included. The Story Maps included the formation of the
64 Redevelopment Plan, the Commission’s mission statement, and goals and objectives of the
65 Redevelopment Plan. Commissioners told Mrs. Wilson that the presentation was great and
66 thanked her for taking the time to create a visual for them.

67 **6. New Business**

68 Before adjourning, Chair Lee told commissioners and staff to send any potential names for the
69 Redevelopment Plan to Mr. Ruggieri and to look forward to the Planning and Zoning Board
70 meeting.

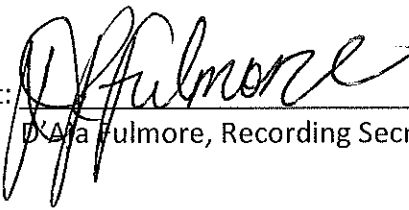
71 **7. Adjournment**

72 Chair Tharesa Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

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Date approved: 12.11.19

Attest: 
D. A. Fulmore, Recording Secretary


Theresa Lee, Chairman