

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Community Redevelopment Agency  
Special Meeting  
September 8, 2005

The Community Redevelopment Agency (City Commission) met in a formal session Thursday, September 8, 2005, at 5:36 p.m. in the Alcazar meeting room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gardner, and the following were present:

**Roll Call:**

George Gardner, Mayor/City Commissioner  
Susan Burk, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner  
Joe Boles, City Commissioner  
Donald A. Crichlow, City Commissioner  
Errol D. Jones, City Commissioner

William B. Harriss, City Manager  
James P. Wilson, City Attorney  
Martha V. (Nell) Porter, City Clerk  
Timothy A. Burchfield, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Regan, Chief Operations Officer  
Robert Leetch, Director of Utilities and Public Works  
Mark Litzinger, City Comptroller  
Meredith Little, Financial Services Group Manager  
Jason Sheffield, Administrative Services Group Manager  
Loran Lueders, Police Chief  
Paul K. Williamson, Director, Public Affairs  
Karen Rogers, Recording Secretary

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**2. Consideration of Resolution 2005-21, establishing the budget for FY 2005/2006.**

Mr. Sheffield stated that Resolution 2005-21 adopted the budget for the community Redevelopment Agency for the 2005/2006 fiscal year.

Mr. Harriss pointed out that because of the increased real estate value revenue from the CRA was higher than originally projected, but the money had to be used for the CRA items.

Mr. Harriss said that the CRA money could be used only for the designated CRA items, one of which was the VIC parking garage. He said that initially the money would be spent primarily on the garage; however, as the revenue grew the City would expand it to the other items.

Commissioner Crichlow questioned whether the expenses in the budget summary were administrative.

Mr. Sheffield said that it was a combination of general operating expenses associated with the CRA and for the upcoming year there was money for sidewalk improvements and street resurfacing. He said that the Commission had identified the eight items in the CRA, and because they were ahead of schedule they were able to incorporate some of the additional items into the geographical boundaries of the CRA.

Commissioner Boles questioned what Mr. Sheffield meant by incorporating additional items.

Mr. Sheffield replied that it was the first year that they were going to make a

capital contribution to the CRA area for redevelopment.

Commissioner Boles expressed concern that the legislature would snatch the CRA ability away from the City. He suggested that if there was any extra money that they hold on to it to pay down the garage quicker, and he questioned whether that was possible.

Mr. Harriss replied that during the previous legislative session an attempt had been made, but snatching it away was limited; therefore, the attempt had failed. He stated that the City was getting heat from the Association of Counties because they perceived that the City was taking their money; however, the City was currently secure. He added that the current revenue from the CRA was minimal. He said that when the first payment on the garage was due it would take the bulk of the CRA money. He explained that the garage had a two year capitalized construction, meaning that they did not have to make the payments currently, and they could spend some money for the other items. He concluded that the City needed the CRA money to pay for the garage.

Commissioner Boles suggested that doing things in neighborhoods gave the residents a false sense that the City had money to continue improvements.

Commissioner Jones suggested that they could not project that far ahead, and he suggested that they had to use the money as recommended and as rapidly as possible.

Mark Litzinger, City Comptroller, stated that the recommended use of the CRA money went toward Riberia Street within the CRA, which effectively increased the CRA.

Mr. Harriss stated that they needed to use the CRA money for more than just the

garage; however, he agreed that they needed to pay for the garage as quickly as they could.

Commissioner Jones emphasized that the total targeted area should benefit.

Mr. Litzinger pointed out that the Association of Counties was not going after already established funds, but they were trying to stop municipalities from putting a CRA in place without the counties permission.

Commissioner Boles stated that he would not want to underestimate the power of the League of Cities lobby in the legislature or that of the counties. He suggested that it was a battle ground and that type of situation tended to wipe out all legislation until someone could bring back another bill.

Mr. Litzinger stated that the intention was to spend money to make money.

Commissioner Jones clarified that they had not intended to get all the money for the parking garage out of the CRA, as ultimately the garage would pay for itself.

Commissioner Burk agreed with Commissioner Boles that if there was money to pay the garage off earlier they should do so.

Commissioner Jones stated that the CRA money was intended to support the garage in part, but it was never intended to be the total support for the garage. He emphasized that the funds were meant to benefit the total community.

A brief discussion determined that approval of the eight items had occurred before Commissioner Boles was elected, and they would move on.

Commissioner Crichlow spoke in total support of the recommended use of the CRA money.

**MOTION**

**Commissioner Burk MOVED to approve  
Resolution 2005-21. Commissioner  
Jones SECONDED the motion**

**VOTE ON MOTION**

**AYES: Burk, Jones, Crichlow, Boles  
Gardner**

**NAYES: None**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the  
meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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MAYOR

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CITY CLERK