CALL TO ORDER: The La Junta Urban Renewal Authority Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the CORE Building (upstairs). The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bennett.

Board Members Present

Absent

Nancy Bennett Rebecca Goodwin Trevor Herasingh Justin Miller Chad Penner Cisco Perez Jeffri Pruyn

Subject to approval at the November 14, 2019 Urban Renewal Meeting

Also present:

Cynthia Nieb, Economic/Urban Renewal Director

Debra Fraker, Admin. Asst.

Aliza Libby-Tucker, Director of Finance Bette McFarren, Tribune Democrat

# CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

There was no citizen's participation.

# COMMISSIONER APPLICATIONS

#### Christine Coffield

1. How will your experience and background assist you in serving on the Authority?

I have experience in Long Term Care, Developmental Disabilities, and Mental Health. I am aware of the wide variety of resources our small town has to offer. I recognize the importance of ensuring the vitality of our local businesses. I have learned a lot by living in different parts of Colorado. In the different roles I have in the work force, I have gained knowledge in the area of quality improvement. For example: How to develop, implement, and maintain a data-drive program that focuses on care, and quality of life. While serving on the board isn't about healthcare, the principles are very similar, but with a much broader range, and should prove to be beneficial with an Urban Renewal Authority Board.

2. What do you know about Urban Renewal Authorities?

In researching Urban Renewal Authorities, I have learned that these Authorities work together to assist in providing grants and interest-free loan to commercial businesses that request help with up-grading. Some examples are: Improvements needed for their store-front, preserving historical property, etc. The Authority can also work with property owners in providing financial assistance for existing property, and/or possibly new construction projects. The Urban Renewal

Authority works with the City of La Junta to address building and structures that are not safe, and may be hazardous to our community.

3. Why am I a good choice?

I grew up in Southeast Colorado and lived with my family in the Swink/La Junta area for over 25 years. After my children were all grown, I moved away for several years in order to broaden my horizons, and now I am back in La Junta to stay. I would like to give back to this community and do what I can to help keep our small town strong and thrive as it should. Personally, it's an opportunity to cultivate new skills, and expand my network of peers and professionals, as well as community leaders here in La Junta.

4. What would I like to focus on in the future?

I would like to see the Authority continue to work with commercial property owners to upgrade and improve any functional issues their properties may have, at the same time, while meeting ADA requirements. Also, to assist with project that meets the public (community members) objectives. I very much appreciate your consideration for me to serve on the City of La Junta Urban Renewal Authority Board.

#### Lisa Pantoya

1. How will your experience and background assist you in serving on the Authority?

I'm a native of La Junta with 23 years of experience in a variety of areas in banking and accounting with strong customer service skills and problem solving skills.

2. What do you know about Urban Renewal Authorities?

Urban Renewal Authorities help commercial businesses through grants and loans to improve their properties.

3. Why are you a good choice for this position?

I've lived in La Junta for 44 years and I want to help my community by being involved in areas that will improve the liveliness of my hometown to be a welcoming place to live in for the people who live here now and those who are interested in moving to la Junta.

4. What would you like the Authority to focus on in the future?

Revitalizing downtown.

# Thomas (TJ) Martinez

1. How will your experience and background assist you in serving on the Authority?

I have prior experience serving on community boards and clubs. I served on the Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for over 2 years and was also involved Lions Club for

- 2 years. I have lied in La Junta for most of my life and intend to raise my children in this wonderful community.
- 2. What do you know about the Urban Renewal Authorities?

The Urban Renewal Authorities work with local businesses by providing grants, loan and other financial assistance to keep commercial buildings up-to-date and attractive to community members and individuals looking to move to the area.

3. Why are you a good choice for this position?

As a near life-long resident and homeowner, I'm personally invested in the community. In my profession as a loan officer, I have a lot of experience working with and advising business owners in the community.

4. What would you like the Authority to focus on in the future?

I would like the Authority to continue the storefront improvements like the new sidewalks and boarders in the downtown area. I would like to see the Authority focus on making the City of la Junta more attractive to millennial and college students.

## MINUTES: September 12, 2019

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the September minutes. Cynthia Nieb made the correction that Randal Roberson requested assistance in rehabilitation, not purchasing, a property. A motion was made by Justin Miller, seconded by Jeffri Pruyn, that the minutes for September 12, 2019 be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: September 2019

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any questions regarding the September financial statements. Hearing none, a motion was made by Justin Miller, seconded by Rebecca Goodwin, that the financial statements for September 2019 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously. There was discussion for Aliza to look into the price for installing solar for the "La Junta" signs.

Aliza Libby-Tucker asked permission of the Board to combine some of the bank accounts and to re-invest the T-bills.

MOTION TO TAKE THE TAX INCREMENT ACCOUNT AND COMBINE IT WITH THE CHECKING ACCOUNT TO CREATE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR ALIZA TO PAY OUR DEBTS TO SECCP, ALSO TO RE-INVEST APPROXIMATELY HALF OF OUR INVESTMENT FUNDS AFTER THEY COME DUE IN NOVEMBER, LEAVING APPROXIMATELY \$110,000 IN INVESTMENTS AND APPROXIMATELY \$77,000 IN THE BANK ACCOUNT: Miller

SECOND: Goodwin

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

#### PROJECT UPDATES:

## A. Mike Bourget

Today was my first day back in the State. We have not performed the final mortar painting. We will conclude the door install and mortar repair by next month.

#### B. SECCP

The Plaza Block project is well-underway. The critical asbestos abatement has occurred, and the remaining will take place by the end of the month followed by the roof rehabilitation. All the selective demo is done as well as the emergency shoring. Some of the framing and the masonry rehab (critical) will occur by end of the October. The contractors are hoping to be done and off-site by the end of the year. We just applied to the SHF for Phase III stabilization and also received funds (yet to get under contract, through) from the CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment to assist with the abatement, and SECCP also applied for the Brownfield Tax Credit, which is reserved until the project is complete

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

# A. Urban Renewal Director:

- Saving Places Conference Who would like to go so that I can apply for funding? It is
  usually at the end of January/first part of February. Miller and Perez want to go. Nieb,
  Bennett and Pruyn (as Mayor) will be attending.
- Certified Local Government We did have the first reading of the ordinance revising the CLG. I want to make sure the Urban Renewal feels comfortable being responsible.

MOTION FOR URBAN RENEWAL TO TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Pruyn

SECOND: Miller

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously

- 3. Application Have not received an application from Randall Roberson.
- 4. 4<sup>th</sup> & Hayes We have two people who are interested in developing 4<sup>th</sup> & Hayes. One would be residential and the other commercial. The list price for the property could be \$12,000 and the discount price of \$5,000.

# B. Governing Body Comments:

1. There were no Governing Body comments.

MOTION TO GO INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF A PERSONNEL MATTER UNDER C.R.S §24-6-402 (4)(f) AND NOT INVOLVING: ANY SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE REQUESTED DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER IN OPEN SESSION; ANY MEMBER OF THIS BODY OR ANY ELECTED OFFOCIAL; THE APPOINTMENT OF ANY PERSON TO FILL AN OFFICE OF THIS BODY OR OF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL; OR PERSONNEL POLICIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE DISCUSSION OF MATTERS PERSONAL TO PARTICULAR EMPLOYEES: Bennett

SECOND: Miller

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion VOTE: The motion carried unanimously

The Urban Renewal Board was in executive session from 5:07 p.m. to 5:21 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Nancy Bennett, Chairperson