

**MINUTES
AMSTERDAM URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
MEETING OF August 13, 2013
CITY HALL
URA OFFICES**

Board Members

Chairman Robert Martin

Arthur Cotugno

Anthony Pallotta

Other

Alissa Scott, Recorder

Excused

Mayor Ann Thane

Michael LaCoppola

Bob Fetterly

Staff:

Nicholas Zabawsky

1. The meeting called to order at 6: 45 PM by Chairman Bob Martin.
2. Approval of Minutes of 4/25/13 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pallotta and seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor.
3. The finance report including cash accounts and loan status was presented by Mr. Zabawsky. After discussion, a motion to accept was made by Mr. Pallotta and seconded by Mr. Martin. All in favor.
4. Mr. Lee Fiacco arrived at 6:50 to present his firms interest in the lot on Church St presently owned by AURA. After discussion, Mr. Fiacco was advised by Chairman Martin to submit a formal written proposal to the Agency.
5. A report on the status of URA projects was presented by Mr. Zabawsky. The 2010 CDBG grant for water system improvements on Market Hill and 2011 CDBG grant for sewer separation phase 2 have undergone a closeout audit by the State Office of Community Renewal, and there were no audit findings. The NY Main Street grant was completed in June of 2013. The City has applied for three grants under the most recent Consolidated Funding Application process, which were due on August 12, 2013. These projects include \$600,000 for sewer system improvements phase 4, \$200,000 for streetscape improvements on East Main Street, and \$200,000 for renovations to City Hall. The awards are expected to be announced in November 2013.
6. New Business: Mr. Zabawsky explained that there are two major problems facing the Agency. Both relate to the failure to produce a financial audit in a timely manner. The Agency has historically been audited as a part of the City's audit, as the URA is a component unit of the City of Amsterdam under Federal audit guidelines. However, the City's failure to complete an audit for the period ending 6/30/12 has led to a freeze on Federal grant funds, and placed the URA in violation of the Public Authorities Accountability Act. To resolve these issues, the URA is going to restructure its accounts, and have audits performed now, rather than wait for the City to undergo an audit. A motion was made by Mr. Pallotta to hire an auditor, Richard Dinolfo to undertake the audit. This motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and approved by all. To achieve a release of Federal funds, an additional separate audit of Federal funds is being undertaken now, rather than wait for the City audit.
7. New Business: The URA owns a parking lot behind the library and post office on Church Street. This lot serves no purpose to the Agency, and is in need of repaving. The City wishes to acquire the lot and repave it for use as public parking. A motion was made to transfer the lot for \$1.00. Motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr Pallotta. All in favor.
8. Motion to adjourn was made at 7:13 PM by Mr. Pallotta and seconded by Mr. Martin.