

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

FEBRUARY 4, 2003

The Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning meets this day at 6:00 o'clock P.M. in Committee Room "A", City Clerk's Department, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councilwoman Balbina A. Young, Councilwoman Carol A. Romano, Councilman Miguel C. Luna and Councilman David A. Segal – 4.

ABSENT: Councilman Joseph DeLuca – 1.

Also present are Sam Shamoon, Director, Department of Planning and Development; Lincoln Lennon, Assistant City Solicitor, Law Department; Bennie Sisto; Anna M. Stetson, Second Deputy City Clerk and Lori L. Hagen, Assistant Clerk.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Councilwoman Young, being the first named member, calls for the nominations for Chairperson of the Committee.

Councilwoman Romano nominates Councilwoman Young and the nomination is seconded by Councilman Luna.

Councilwoman Young calls for further nominations and there being none, the Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Councilwoman Young as Chairwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG IN THE CHAIR

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Councilwoman Young calls for nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

Councilman Segal nominates Councilman Luna and the nomination is seconded by Councilwoman Romano.

Councilwoman Young calls for further nominations and there being none, the Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Councilman Luna as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

An Ordinance in Amendment of and in Addition to Chapter 2000-6 of the Ordinance of the City of Providence Approved March 23, 2000, Entitled "An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Official Redevelopment Plan for the Wanskuck Redevelopment Project" for the Acquisition of Lot 373 on Assessor's Plat 78, 9 Houghton Street.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Our first item is – this has been around for a while and Councilwoman Romano, I know this is in your area. And we're going to ask Sam to let us know where are we with this, and are we going to move forward or what's happening.

MR. SHAMOON: First of all, Madame Chair, I just want to say that the Department recommendation is to continue this matter.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay.

MR. SHAMOON: Just to bring the Committee up to date, the Redevelopment Agency has been reviewing development plans for the former American Tourister site.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay.

MR. SHAMOON: And they have not concluded all their discussions and agreed upon a final plan. Until that happens, it's probably wisest to – to leave this on the docket and not take an action at this time. So, we would recommend that this be continued.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay. Council members, any comments?
Councilwoman Romano, is that your –

COUNCILWOMAN ROMANO: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: -- you agree with that.

COUNCILWOMAN ROMANO: Yes, I agree.

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CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay.

COUNCILWOMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Can we get a motion to continue this?

VICE-CHAIRMAN LUNA: I'll make the motion.

COUNCILWOMAN ROMANO: Second the motion.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Luna, Seconded by Councilwoman Romano, it is voted to continue the foregoing matter.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Motion has been made and seconded to continue, all those in favor.

COMMITTEE: Ayes.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Opposed? This matter will be continued.

MR. SISTO: Can I make a comment?

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: It's not our normal procedure but I will allow you to make a brief comment certainly.

MR. SISTO: This has been – this matter's been continued a number of times.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Um-hum.

MR. SISTO: And every single time I come here and I'm told at the meeting that it's continued. And for the last couple of times it was a survey. There's always a – I've come from Boston to the meeting here. I've come from Newport for a meeting here. I've come a number of times. And the last meeting I had of this, in this office, I was told that it wasn't – you weren't ready because of a survey or because of an appraisal or something else. It's been going on for years. Again, I – as I said back then, I think it's only common courtesy that when the Director knows that he's not going to – he's going to continue this that he should at least notify the parties involved. I don't see why it's necessary to have to come to a meeting here and waste people's time to come to a meeting. This has been going on for three years.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: That is not true. This actually came to the City Council April of 2002 –

MR. SISTO: 1995 –

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: -- that we got this before this Committee, just so you're clear for the record. You can see the date's here so.

MS. SISTO: I'm sorry, two thousand and what?

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: 2002. That's – so it has not been going on that long.

MR. SISTO: Well, the original ordinance – the original ordinance, which included this lot, this is while you're correcting this was done three years ago, Madame Chairman.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay but this came here in 2002, April 2002 so.

VICE-CHAIRMAN LUNA: Can he say his name for the record?

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Yes, certainly.

MR. SISTO: Yeah, My name is Bennie Sisto, B-E-N-N-I-E, S-I-S-T-O.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Thank you for your comments.

MR. SISTO: You're welcome.

An Ordinance in Amendment of and in Addition to Chapter 1986-53 of the Ordinance of the City of Providence Approved October 23, 1986 and Entitled: "An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Official Redevelopment Plan for the Special Vacant Lot Project" for the Acquisition of Lots 2, 73, & 763, Plat 23, 10, 2, & 6 Hayward Street, Respectively.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Sam, this is Hayward Street, right.

MR. SHAMOON: Yes, Madame Chair. This is in your ward, Madame Chair.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Right. Um-hum.

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MR. SHAMOON: These are three lots on the Special Vacant Lot program that were recommended by the Redevelopment Agency for acquisition. At this time we request a public hearing to be held on this matter.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Right. And we'll combine that with the other ones for the public hearing. I think there's one more. Okay. We'll do them at the same time.

An Ordinance in Amendment of and in Addition to Chapter 1986-53 of the Ordinance of the City of Providence Approved October 23, 1986 and Entitled: "An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Official Redevelopment Plan for the Special Vacant Lot Project" for the Acquisition of Lots 560 & 555, Plat 63, 2 & 60 Curtis Street, Respectively.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: This is also a Special Vacant Lot Program, and this is in – whose ward is this?

MR. SHAMOON: This is in Councilman DeLuca's ward.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: DeLuca's ward, okay.

MR. SHAMOON: Madame Chair, it's – it's actually adjacent to the Greenway, the Woonasquatucket Greenway Project that we're working on.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay.

MR. SHAMOON: And we have the support of the Councilman for that.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay, that's good.

MR. SHAMOON: It's a parcel at the corner of Curtis, Bosworth and Aleppo Street, and another one that's at the corner of Curtis and Pelham Street. It also requires a public hearing. So, those are the two items that would require hearings.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay. So, we'll put those two together for a public hearing, item number three and four. Can we get a date for that?

MS. STETSON: Well –

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Because those are the two we need.

MS. STETSON: -- we need to advertise it three times.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Yeah.

MS. STETSON: And if we advertise it on three consecutive Mondays starting next week, we're going to go into the week of the 25th.

MR. SHAMOON: 24th.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: February 24th.

MS. STETSON: So, any – you can schedule it any time after, you know, the 25th on. But we do have another public hearing scheduled that night on the 25th for Public Works Committee.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Okay. So, what about the 26th then, the Wednesday?

MS. STETSON: You want to go on the 26th?

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Yeah.

MS. STETSON: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Is that going to be a problem for anyone, February 26th? It's a Wednesday.

COUNCILWOMAN ROMANO: No, fine.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Normally at the public hearings all the members are certainly allowed to be there but we can hold a public hearing with only one member –

VICE-CHAIRMAN LUNA: Oh.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: -- because you're just taking testimony.

VICE-CHAIRMAN LUNA: Oh, okay.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: So, if you can't make the public hearing we will understand that but we'd like you to kind of get there sometime so you can see how it works so, but we can do it with one person. Okay, so we'll do that on the 26th.

COUNCILMAN SEGAL: What time will that be held?

MS. STETSON: Six, 6:00 o'clock.

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CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Yeah, 6:00 o'clock.

Resolution Requesting the City Council to cause the transfer of properties located on Assessor's Plat 10, Lots 199, 203 and 213, 19 Wheaton Street, 143 Benefit Street and 2 Wheaton Street, respectively, from the City of Providence to the Providence Redevelopment Agency.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: This is transferring the property, Wheaton Street, Benefit Street from the City of Providence to the PRA. This is Councilwoman Williams.

MR. SHAMOON: Yes, Madame Chair, these are three lots that Councilwoman Williams wanted – was interested in transferring to the Redevelopment Agency.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Um-hum.

MR. SHAMOON: She contacted me late this afternoon and said she was unable to make tonight's meeting and would request that this matter be continued.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Certainly. Okay. Can we get a motion to continue item number five.

COUNCILWOMAN ROMANO: So moved.

VICE-CHAIRMAN LUNA: So seconded.

On motion of Councilwoman Romano, Seconded by Vice-Chairman Luna, it is voted to continue the foregoing matter.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Motion has been made and seconded, all those in favor.


COMMITTEE: Ayes.

CHAIRWOMAN YOUNG: Opposed? Motion carries. Item number five will be continued. That's it. We had a short agenda tonight. This is wonderful. Can I get a motion to adjourn?

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ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilwoman Romano, Seconded by Vice-Chairman Luna, it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 o'clock P.M.


Second Deputy City Clerk


Assistant Clerk