

**AGENDA MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
CITY HALL, 501 W MEADOW STREET
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 5:01 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Greater Leesburg Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Leesburg held a regular meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023, at Leesburg City Hall. Chairperson Burry called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Allyson Berry
Commissioner Jay Connell
Commissioner Mike Pederson
Commissioner James Reid
Commissioner Alan Reisman
Commissioner Stevens-Coney
Chairperson Jimmy Burry

Also present were City Manager (CM) Al Minner, City Clerk (CC) J. Andi Purvis, City Attorney (CA) Grant Watson, the news media, and others.

INVOCATION

Chairperson Burry gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

A. Regular meeting held February 27, 2023

Commissioner Reisman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 27, 2023 and Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Stevens-Coney	Yes
Commissioner Connell	Yes
Commissioner Reisman	Yes
Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Berry	Yes
Commissioner Reid	Yes

Chairperson Burry

Yes

Seven yeas, no nays, the Commission approved the meeting minutes.

3. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. **Resolution of the Greater Leesburg Community Redevelopment Agency (GLCRA) of the City of Leesburg, Florida authorizing the Commission to execute a resolution approving a Fiscal Year 2023 Façade, Sign, and Landscape Grant Award to Mt. Ararat Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church; and providing an effective date. (Mt. Ararat FSL Grants GLCRA 2023).**

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 56

Commissioner Reisman introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Purvis read the resolution by title only.

Commissioner Reisman made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion.

Chairperson Burry requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Connell restated his concerns in the past about using this towards non-profits.

Commissioner Pederson remarked that nowhere does it say this is capped. He saw three quotes: seventeen, twenty, and twenty-eight. He would like to be sure they are capped at less than twenty or the contract price. That is usually included in the packet, but he did not see it there. **CM Minner** replied they may have missed putting that in the packet, but the grant policy is twenty percent. It is an 80/20 grant. The city would pay eighty percent and the applicant pays twenty percent up to a maximum from the city of twenty thousand dollars. That goes for this grant as well. **Commissioner Connell** inquired which one they were going with because one of them was below twenty thousand. **CM Minner** answered that he was unsure if they would award up to twenty because there was one quote they received that was a little higher but it is a reimbursement basis. If they came in at the lower one, the city would provide twenty percent of the lower cost. **Commissioner Connell** remarked that it would be eighty percent of the lower cost. **CM Minner** agreed. **Chairperson Burry** stated he made it clear before that he is not in favor of issuing these types of grants to any not-for-profits, any churches, or any institutional type organizations that do not pay property taxes on the property. He would be voting no on this. **Commissioner Stevens-Coney** said she understood the perimeters of this program and we want to abide, but with regards to the Mount Ararat Metropolitan Baptist Church, this is one of the oldest black churches in the community. It was a vital place for meetings during the civil rights movement. It was the home church of Reverend H.P. James, whose family still resides in the Leesburg area. It is a church whose name stands for itself. Some of the parishioners of that church were the Reeves, Barrett, and Lyman families. She understands the difference between tax paying and non-tax paying. She is speaking on behalf of the longevity and the historical aspect of the church that has been very vital to the community since the 18th century. While she does understand the law and how it is to abide, keep in mind that the members of that church pay taxes. She would like to give further consideration to what the grant calls for. **Commissioner Berry** added that the location of the church is on Main Street. It is right on the main quarter coming into the city. We are making major landmarks to identify churches and we have given them to other churches. She understands about the non-profit, but the location of this church is right on Main Street, right after the split between Sunnyside and Dixie. There is an entrance coming onto Main Street.

Daryl Reeves, pastor of Mount Ararat Metropolitan, said they would really appreciate the consideration. They have been in this community for one hundred and forty-four years. During the pandemic, they were the center of disbursement of over ten thousand boxes of meals which included meat, dairy, produce, and various other items. They have supported this community for years. The chair of their trustee ministry is Rodney Rocker, who is the proprietor of Rocker Cusack Mortuary, who is a taxpayer. They are a solid community. The Lymans, the Browns, and the Berrys are still members of Mount Ararat. He is a Reeves, but not that Reeves. They would truly appreciate the support and consideration.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Connell	No
Commissioner Reisman	Yes
Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Berry	Yes
Commissioner Reid	Yes
Commissioner Stevens-Coney	Yes
Chairperson Burry	No

Five yeas, two nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

4. ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Connell had nothing.

Commissioner Stevens-Coney commented that she had some very interesting things from the intra community of the Greater Leesburg CRA area. The three things will take longer than we have this afternoon to go into. However, they are historically distinguished churches, historically distinguished properties, as well as East Community Pavilions for the people. With regards to the first one, historically distinguished churches and there are members of the particular churches present today to verify that these are a worthy activity and project. These churches housed black students in the middle eighteenth century when there were no schools for the blacks. These churches are Saint Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church and they have the head Steward Ms. Carolyn Samuel and Mount Olive Metropolitan Baptist church and the head person is Ms. Connor and there may be an additional church. However, these people were there because they think that it is a very worthwhile cause, because what happens when our people intermingle in the communities, they can see and take pride in those kinds of things that are marked that go back to their history and heritage. She would like to offer a motion that they schedule a workshop to go into the discussion and hear more about these vital projects. An additional project is the distinguished properties they would like to identify in their communities that go back into our history. She offered a motion to schedule perhaps April 10th as a workshop for these items so they have the time to discuss these items. **Commissioner Berry** asked if the workshop would be discussed further.

Commissioner Stevens-Coney replied yes.

Commissioner Stevens-Coney made a motion to meet and discuss the items being addressed on April 10 and Commissioner Berry seconded the motion.

Commissioner Reisman asked if they could get with the city manager to give him the information so the commission could have more details about what that meeting would be about. Commissioner Stevens-Coney replied she would be happy to. They have discussed some of the items previously.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Reisman	Yes
Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Berry	Yes
Commissioner Reid	Yes
Commissioner Stevens-Coney	Yes
Commissioner Connell	Yes
Chairperson Burry	Yes

Seven yeas, no nays, the Commission approved to meet on April 10th for a workshop.

Commissioner Reisman had nothing.

Commissioner Pederson had nothing.

Commissioner Berry had nothing.

Commissioner Reid had nothing.

Chairperson Burry had nothing.

5. ADJOURN:

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, ADA COORDINATOR, AT 728-9740, 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

F.S.S. 286.0105 "If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based." The City of Leesburg does not provide this verbatim record.

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.