

**AGENDA MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
VENETIAN CENTER, 1 DOZIER COURT
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 5:01 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Leesburg Carver Heights/Montclair Area Redevelopment Agency held a special meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at the Venetian Center. Chairperson Christian called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Jimmy Burry
Commissioner Dan Robuck
Commissioner Mike Pederson
Commissioner Erika Jasper
Chairperson John Christian

Commissioner Jay Connell and Commissioner Kevin Conner were absent.

Also present were City Manager (CM) Al Minner, City Clerk (CC) J. Andi Purvis, Budget Manager (BM) Brandy McDaniel, the news media, and others.

INVOCATION

Chairperson Christian 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 August 9, 2021

Commissioner Robuck made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 9, 2021 and Commissioner Jasper seconded the motion.

Chairperson Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Burry	Yes
Commissioner Jasper	Yes

Commissioner Robuck	Yes
Chairperson Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission approved the regular meeting minutes from August 9, 2021.

3. RESOLUTIONS:

A. Resolutions amending the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 for the Carver Heights/Montclair Area Community Redevelopment Agency.

1. Resolution of Carver Heights/Montclair Area Community Redevelopment Agency of Leesburg, Florida, approving the amended Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget; Appropriating certain funds to specific redevelopment projects; and providing an effective date.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 95

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

Commissioner Robuck made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Jasper seconded the motion.

Chairperson Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Burry	Yes
Commissioner Jasper	Yes
Commissioner Robuck	Yes
Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Chairperson Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

2. Resolution of the Carver Heights/Montclair Area Community Redevelopment Agency of Leesburg, Florida, approving the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget; appropriating certain funds to specific redevelopment projects; and providing an effective date.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 96

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

Commissioner Robuck made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Burry seconded the motion.

Chairperson Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

CM Minner noted that there were previous discussions on this and he wanted to put some ideas on the table. The Carver Heights CRA has five hundred and two thousand dollars coming in and five hundred and two dollars going out and about eighty percent of that is used on the Resource Center, which leaves almost four hundred and thirty thousand for remaining projects. We left the budget with about five hundred thousand in reserve. To update you on where a couple of spending priorities are for the next year, we did hear back from Ms. Allen-Carston's attorney, Chuck Johnson. He sent an email earlier this week on Monday stating she would accept the counter-offer of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for the property located at 1115 County Road 468. He is waiting to hear back from Mr. Johnson on that and they will work with the City Attorney to proceed with the title work. They will get everything changed over and that one hundred and seventy five thousand dollars will come out of this fund. Secondly, we have been having a lot of problems at Berry Park with littering and folks congregating there along with the homeless. In the last week, one of the concepts staff came up with for Berry Park was to potentially make it look more like Ski Beach. Ski Beach has some of the same features as Berry Park, so we thought it would be nice to add wrought iron fencing and brick columns. We would get a cost estimate for putting a signature fence around Berry Park. It would help with the congregation and some of the not-so-friendly activities that are happening in the park and will help with the aesthetics of the community. We are guessing that it will cost between two hundred and fifty thousand to three hundred thousand dollars, but it would be a really nice addition to this park. This type of fencing has become kind of our signature in different areas and it will be well received by the community. **Commissioner Pederson** commented, looking at the Chairperson, that if he believes this is money well spent, he is all for it.

Chairperson Christian remarked that he knew we had a problem. He contacted the City Manager because he had driven past there the other night around nine or ten o'clock and the lights were on under the pavilion and he saw a group of people under the pavilion. He wondered why people were even in the city park at that time of night. He sent a text to the city manager and he replied that the Police Department wanted the lights on because people were there at night. Lately, he has seen people drive their vehicles right up to the pavilion. Now, if he wanted to bring his kids to the pavilion for the afternoon, he probably would not do that. We should not have any city parks where people feel like they cannot come to the park. He was with his mom when they drove by and she said her church used it and they had to pay thirty dollars to rent that pavilion. He said if he had to pay thirty dollars to rent it and he went up there and everyone had their car there, he would make a phone call to say who was coming to get all these people out of here. He was sure that people would be upset, saying they just paid thirty dollars to rent the pavilion and there were cars all over and who would make the people leave? We have to set the same standard in all our parks where you cannot be here at ten o'clock at night doing whatever you want. You cannot drive your vehicle on the city grass because then we have to pay to replace it. We need to make it a little more inconvenient for them. We have a really nice parking lot and that is where you should park your car and walk to the pavilion. He may have to ask about borrowing money and possibly discuss multiple projects, but that is a discussion for another day. However, we definitely need to do something at Berry Park. **Commissioner Pederson** asked if we were going to add a gate like we have at Ski Beach. **CM Minner** replied yes, they want to totally secure the park where it can be used during the day and secured at night.

Commissioner Jasper remarked that she had the privilege of going out this morning with a couple of city workers. The workers were picking up the trash and litter in the park. They saw that some of the tables were damaged and on the concrete there were piles of burnt debris and things of that nature. While talking with some of the workers, it was mentioned that they picked up drug paraphernalia found in the park. She would like to see this area beautified because it is a public park, it has a children's playground there, and it is not fair for a child to get ahold of a needle and to have it get injected into their skin perpetually because of some other person's issue or habit. Anything we could do to beautify this park, she is onboard. **Commissioner Robuck** agrees with the fence. Although he does not agree with financing this through the CRA. When we cleaned up other parks in the city, we did not go to other CRA funds to pay for it, although that may legally fall into the definition of what the CRA funds could be used for. He would rather see the CRA funds used more for cleaning up blight as opposed to just improving a building. Given the unexpected ARP funds in the general fund, that could free up the gas fund, so maybe some money could be transferred for a capital project like this.

Mayor Christian expressed that it was a great idea made by Commissioner Robuck. **Commissioner Jasper** concurred.

CM Minner concluded by saying he would bring back the figures for further discussion.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Jasper	Yes
Commissioner Robuck	Yes
Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Burry	Yes
Chairperson Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

4. ROLL CALL:

There were no comments offered during roll call.

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.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.