

City of Valdosta Land Bank Authority
Monthly Meeting – Minutes
Wednesday, January 20, 2016 9:00 a.m.

City of Valdosta – City Hall Annex, Multi-Purpose Room

Members Present: Commissioner Joyce E. Evans, Burk Sherwood, Frank Morman

Others Present: William (Billy) Steinberg, Vanassa Flucas and Sarah Lowe

Guest: Councilwoman Sandra Tooley, Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody and Mr. Thomas Simpson

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Frank Morman at 9:07 a.m. Guests were welcomed and acknowledged.

Mr. Morman confirmed that all committee members present reviewed the November Meeting Minutes and then called for a motion to approve said minutes. Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the minutes, but with one correction to her name. Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Mr. Morman turned the meeting over to Ms. Flucas at this time.

Ms. Flucas welcomed the guests. She shared the authority's goals for the new year. Reminder was given to the Authority Members that their membership renewals are due, deadline is January, 31. Ms. Flucas will make arrangements to get onto the agendas for both City and County to further discuss the New Appointment selections. Commissioner Evans offered to re-confirm the County's appointment process and timeline and then suggested to Ms. Flucas, that she give a brief description about the Land Bank Authority to the newest guest. Ms. Flucas complied.

Councilwoman Miller-Cody requested further information for study on Land Banks. Ms. Flucas shared that all the land bank resources are in electronic format on our website. She will see that Councilwoman Miller-Cody receives these resources and will be available if there are any additional questions.

Councilwoman Tooley inquired about the application process for becoming a committee member. Ms. Flucas went over the process for the City and reiterated that the County has a similar process. The new appointments will begin their term on July 31.

The City of Valdosta Land Bank webpage was previewed and discussed in detail. At the last meeting, Councilman Yost made a suggestion to have a form created for the website that would allow individuals the ability to submit parcels of interest to the Land Bank. A proposed form was presented to the Land Bank Authority members. Suggestions were made, but Ms. Flucas asked that members take the time to look over the form. Ms. Lowe was instructed to send out the form electronically to each member, to allow them the ability to test out the online version. We will discuss the form at the next meeting. However, if any authority member has any feedback prior to meeting, they were encouraged to contact the Neighborhood Development Office at their convenience.

Ms. Flucas provided information on upcoming opportunities for Land Banks. The Center for Community Progress has a nationally recognized annual conference on topics related to Land Banks and Land Banking. This year the conference is titled: Reclaiming Vacant Properties and will be held in Baltimore, MD on Sept. 28-30, 2016. Ms. Flucas further explained that she is looking to gain approval to attend, but it would be very beneficial if at least one of the Authority members were able to attend. These

conferences hold multiple workshops, some of them running simultaneously, so it would be good to have at least one additional person in attendance to have more chance to gain more resources. The Center for Community Progress is the organization that puts forth our Land Bank Resources. Ms. Flucas told the committee members that her office will be adding each of the Committee member's email into the Center's website which will enable each member to receive informative e-news, and announcements on future conferences and events relevant to Land Banks and Land Banking.

At this time paperwork on parcel transfer was finalized contractually. This was in regards to the previously approved parcel swap of 808 First Avenue with 607 E Brookwood Drive for Mr. Rountree. These documents are being retained by Mr. Steinberg who will file and return official copies back to the Neighborhood Development Office. The history behind the transfer was reviewed briefly. Ms. Flucas encouraged all Authority Members to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Mr. Rountree when the housing reconstruction is completed.

Mr. Morman shared his thoughts and thanks towards the City Staff and the Elected Officials visiting the meeting.

There were no additional items on the agenda. Mr. Morman moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.