MINUTES OF MEETING HELD BY MORGAN CITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY IN OPEN PUBLIC SESSION ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015 AT 5:15 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE CITY OFFICE LOCATED AT 90 WEST YOUNG STREET

Present: Chair, Ray W. Little.

Members: Tony London, Jeff Wardell, Shelly Betz, Mike Kendell and Fran Hopkin.

Staff: none

Others present: Miriam Hone, Morgan Music Academy.

This meeting was called to order by Chair, Ray W. Little.

Minutes

MOTION: Tony London moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2014 meeting.

SECOND: Shelly Betz. Vote: 4 ayes, Mike not present.

Items for Discussion/Approval

Miriam Hone, Morgan Music Academy
Request for Funds

Miriam Hone submitted a request for funding from the RDA for her new business to be located on Commercial Street. She gave the members a brief explanation of what her business would entail. This is a music academy and she will teach lessons. She is renting the building at 157 North Commercial that is owned by Roger Nicosia.

Shelly stated the RDA rent subsidy was originally geared towards retail businesses. She is glad that Miriam is here to help the members understand what she is proposing. Miriam stated she wants to have an area in the building to sell materials such as music books, instruments, etc. so there would be some retail sales. Fran asked about the sales listed in her proposal. She stated this is regarding sales of lessons, not materials.

Chair Little stated he feels this business would enhance the services provided to the citizens. He asked if this building is large enough to handle an orchestra for practice. Miriam stated some remodeling had been done to make room for this type of activity. Shelly asked if she is signing a lease with the building owner. She stated she is signing a one-year lease.

Mike arrived to the meeting.

Tony asked if the building has restroom facilities. It was stated it does and they have been updated recently. Shelly stated approval would be contingent upon the building owner's approval. Tony stated even though this is not a retail business, he feels it would be an asset to residents in our community.

Shelly explained to Miriam how the rent assistance program operates. There was discussion on Miriam's request for assistance with the signage that she has asked for. The sign request will need to be done on a separate basis. Miriam was told she would have to comply with the historical committee requirements.

MOTION: Shelly Betz moved to grant a one-year rent subsidy to Miriam Hone, for her business to be located at 157 North Commercial Street in the amount of $200 per month – contingent upon the building owner giving approval.

SECOND: Tony London. Vote: 5 ayes.

Outstanding Loans/Grants

Chair Little stated a list was provided in the member packets that outlines the loans/grants that are in default. Attorney Crane has suggested having an attorney from his office help the RDA in moving forward to collect these outstanding balances.

Fran asked if the RDA has had to take action on items such as this in the past. Shelly stated the RDA did take the VanCampen loan to small claims court and did get a judgment but no payment has been received. Mike asked if this is a list of all the ones that are in default. It was stated it is.

Tony stated he is not sure how much staff time it takes to go through the process of collection. There was discussion on the various loans in default and what action the members should take. The cost being proposed is $150 per each case. Shelly stated the RDA is public money and she feels they have an obligation to do everything possible to collect these monies.

Tony stated if the City had the titles for vehicles, it should into to see if they can be repossessed.

MOTION: Mike Kendell moved to approve allowing the junior attorney suggested by Attorney Crane proceed with trying to collect on the default accounts for $150 per case.

SECOND: Shelly Betz. Vote: 5 ayes.

This meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Julie A. Bloxham, Agency Secretary

These minutes were approved at the 01-27-15 meeting.