

IDA Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2022
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The Town of Orange Industrial Development Authority (IDA) held a meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Town of Orange Community Meeting Room. Members present were Mrs. Dana C. Amos, Mr. Robert Higginbotham, Dr. Dena Jennings, Mr. Harry C. Mason, Jr., Mr. Kevin Reynolds, Sr., Mr. David Rutt, and Mr. Steve Sylvia. Staff members present were: Town Manager Greg Woods, Deputy Town Clerk Kimberly Strawser, CMC/CZA, Director of Community Development John Cooley, Director of Finance Dianna Gomez, and Town Attorney Catherine Lea.

CALL TO ORDER

The Town Manager called the meeting to order. The Deputy Town Clerk called roll and noted that there was a quorum present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Town Manager requested to add an item to the agenda, recap of the Cares Act Funding after officer nominations and elections.

Motion was made by Dr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Higginbotham, to adopt the agenda, as amended. On vote, Mrs. Amos – aye, Mr. Higginbotham – aye, Dr. Jennings – aye, Mr. Mason – aye, Mr. Reynolds – aye, Mr. Rutt – aye, and Mr. Sylvia – absent. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

The Town Manager called for nominations for Chairperson. Motion was made by Mrs. Amos, seconded by Mr. Mason, to nominate Mr. Robert Higginbotham to serve as Chairperson. There being no more nominations the Town Manager stated nominations were closed.

On roll call vote to appoint Mr. Robert Higginbotham, as Chairperson of the Town's IDA. On roll call vote: Mrs. Amos – aye, Mr. Higginbotham – abstained, Dr. Jennings – aye, Mr. Mason – aye, Mr. Reynolds – aye, Mr. Rutt – aye, and Mr. Sylvia – absent. The motion carried with one-member abstaining.

The Chairperson for the Town's IDA for 2022 is Mr. Robert Higginbotham.

The Town Manager handed over the gavel to Chairman Higginbotham.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Chairman Higginbotham called for nominations of Vice-Chairperson. Motion was made by Chairman Higginbotham, seconded by Mr. Rutt, to nominate Mr. Chuck Mason, to serve as Vice-Chairman. There being no more nominations, Chairman Higginbotham stated nominations were closed.

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On roll call vote to appoint Mr. Chuck Mason, as Vice-Chairman of the Town's IDA. On roll call vote: Mr. Sylvia – absent Mrs. Amos – aye, Mr. Higginbotham – aye, Dr. Jennings – aye, Mr. Mason – abstained, Mr. Reynolds – aye, Mr. Rutt – aye. The motion carried with one-member abstaining.

The Vice-Chairman for the Town's IDA for 2022 is Mr. Chuck Mason.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Chairman Higginbotham called for nominations of Secretary. Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Mason, seconded by Chairman Higginbotham, to nominate Kim Strawser, Deputy Town Clerk, to serve as the IDA Secretary. There being no more nominations, Chairman Higginbotham stated nominations were closed.

On roll call vote to appoint Kim Strawser, Deputy Town Clerk as Secretary of the Town's IDA. On roll call vote: Mr. Rutt -aye, Mr. Sylvia- absent, Mrs. Amos – aye, Chairman Higginbotham - aye, Dr. Jennings - aye, Vice-Chairman Mason - aye, and Mr. Reynolds - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary for the Town's IDA for 2022 is Kim Strawser, Deputy Town Clerk.

ELECTION OF TREASURER

Chairman Higginbotham called for nominations of Treasurer. Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Vice-Chairman Mason, to nominate Greg Woods, Town Manager, to serve as Treasurer. There being no more nominations Chairman Higginbotham stated nominations were closed.

On roll call vote to appoint Greg Woods, Town Manager as Treasurer of the Town's IDA. On roll call vote: Vice-Chairman Reynolds - aye, Mr. Rutt - aye, Mr. Sylvia - absent, Mrs. Amos – aye, Mr. Higginbotham - aye, Dr Jennings - aye, and Chairman Mason - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The Treasurer for the Town's IDA for 2022 is Greg Woods, Town Manager.

CARES ACT UPDATE

The Town Manager thanked the IDA for their performance on distributing the Cares Act money for the Town. The Town Manager reported that there were no issues with the audit this past year regarding the Cares Act money. The Town Manager reported that on the \$881,000 that was received, \$850,000 was given to the IDA, \$832,000 was given to businesses in town and the remaining was given the Police Department. The Town Manager stated that he received several comments on how pleased the people/businesses were in town and how much the funds helped.

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Mr. Reynolds stated that the Town Manager did a wonderful job in guiding the IDA on how to get the money out to the businesses in town.

The Town Manager reported that the 2020 Census reported that there were 190 towns in the state and Orange was ranked at 25, which was very high.

UPDATE ON FIBER IN TOWN

The Town Manager stated an ordinance franchise agreement was required under State Code and a Public Hearing on the ordinance would be held on Monday, April 18, 2022 at the regular Council meeting, and if passed and invitation to bid would be issued.

Mr. Reynolds asked the Chairman if Mr. Keith Marshall could speak regarding the Town/County conflict regarding the Franchise agreement. Mr. Marshall stated he wasn't sure what the issue between the Town and County was but would like some clarification.

A discussion was held.

The Town Manager stated that the town entered into a right a way (ROW) agreement because the County refused to enter into a franchise agreement with the Town for the fiber. The Town Manager reference section 9.3 of the ROW agreement. The Town Manager reported that there are three requirements when working in the town ROW and they were as follows: 1) you must obtain a permit from Public Works to work within the ROW, 2) if you were working in town and you do damage, you must pay for damages, 3) if road improvements were made and utility (ie: fiber) had to be removed then that would be at their expense. The Town Manager said it was a standard with all other franchise agreement with the town.

A lengthy discussion was held.

The Town Attorney stated that she would work with the Town Manager to clarify information and forward to Mr. Marshall.

TOWN FUNDING AND APPLICATION DISCUSSION

The Town Manager reported that \$75,000 was allocated in the proposed budget for the IDA for funding. The Town Manager reported that if approved the funding would be affective July 1st.

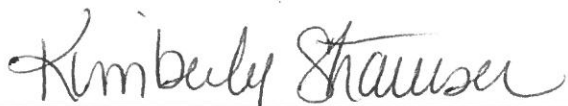
After discussion, motion was made by Chairman Higginbotham, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to discuss how the money could be used at their next meeting, April 21st at 5 p.m. On vote: Chairman Higginbotham – aye, Vice-Chairman Mason – aye, Mrs. Amos – aye, Dr. Jennings – aye, Mr. Reynolds – aye, Mr. Rutt – aye and Mr. Sylvia – absent. Motion carried unanimously.

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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Town Manager introduced the new Director of Finance, Dianna Gomez.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Strawser". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kimberly Strawser, CMC/CZA, Deputy Town Clerk
IDA Secretary