

APPROVED - 12/8/15

City of Ecorse

Receivership Transition Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Ecorse City Hall

Council Chambers

Albert B. Buday Civic Center

3869 West Jefferson

Ecorse, Michigan 48229

RTAB MEMBERS PRESENT:

ROBERT BOVITZ
EDWARD KORYZNO

NOT PRESENT:

JOYCE PARKER

ALSO PRESENT:

CASSANDRA BOOMS
Office of the City Attorney

DREW VAN de GRIFT

Michigan Department of Treasury
Office of Fiscal Responsibility

Reported by:

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015

Called to order at 9:04 a.m.

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MR. KORYZNO: Good morning. It's four minutes after nine and I'll call the City of Ecorse Receivership Transition Advisory Board meeting for Tuesday, October 13, 2015 to order.

Mr. Van de Grift, roll call, please?

MR. VAN DE GRIFT: Robert Bovitz?

MR. BOVITZ: Here.

MR. VAN DE GRIFT: Edward Koryzno?

MR. KORYZNO: Here.

MR. VAN DE GRIFT: Joyce Parker, absent.

A quorum is present.

MR. KORYZNO: Thank you.

Next item is approval of agenda. I'll entertain a motion.

MR. BOVITZ: Move to admit the agenda as presented.

MR. KORYZNO: Support.

Any discussion?

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the agenda as printed say aye.

MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

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MR. KORYZNO: Aye.

Opposed same sign.

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: The agenda is approved.

Also reminder to the public that if you wish to speak at the public comment portion of the meeting, it's necessary for you to sign the sheet at the podium, otherwise unfortunately you will not be recognized.

Next item is approval of RTAB minutes of September 8th, 2015 meeting with noted clarifications.

MR. BOVITZ: Moved to approve the minutes as corrected.

MR. KORYZNO: Support.

Any further discussion?

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of approving the minutes say aye?

MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

MR. KORYZNO: Aye.

Opposed same sign.

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: The minutes are approved.

Item 2: Old business: Claims and Accounts Payroll Claims update.

During the last month's RTAB meeting there were

1 questions regarding some items in the payroll. The city
2 has provided an explanation for the increases in payroll
3 expenses. This document will be received entirely. Are
4 there any questions from you, Mr. Bovitz regarding that?

5 MR. BOVITZ: No. I just had a concern last
6 month when we came up with. That explains it when you
7 move positions from contract to actually -- from
8 contractual to statutory employee. It makes sense. It's
9 just a number shift. It's not an increase.

10 MR. KORYZNO: Thank you for that explanation.

11 Item three, new business. Approval of
12 resolutions and ordinances for city council meetings.
13 Item one, Resolutions from the regular city council
14 meeting of August 18, 2015. I'll entertain a motion.

15 MR. BOVITZ: So moved.

16 MR. KORYZNO: Support.

17 Discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none. All in favor of the
20 motion to approve the resolutions from the August 18th,
21 2015 city council meeting say aye?

22 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

23 MR. KORYZNO: Aye.

24 Opposed same sign.

25 (No response.)

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MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

Item 2: Resolutions from regular city council meeting of September 1, 2015.

MR. BOVITZ: Move to approve the minutes from September 11, 2015 with the exception of Resolution 249.15, the approval of the budget amendment.

MR. KORYZNO: Support.

Further discussion?

Seeing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.

MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

MR. KORYZNO: Aye.

Opposed same sign.

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

Item 8, Resolution 249.15, approval of budget amendment 2016-2. Mr. O'Neal, could you provide the Board with a summary of this item?

MR. O'NEAL: Yes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a budget amendment to move monies from the last fiscal year into this fiscal year to cover the cost of a police car that hadn't arrived. It's my understanding that that was appropriated as a receivable and that that budget amendment is no longer necessary, is that right, Tim?

MR. SIDOWSKI: Correct.

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MR. KORYZNO: Any questions?

MR. BOVITZ: No.

MR. KORYZNO: All right. I'll entertain a motion. Thank you, Mr. O'Neal.

MR. BOVITZ: Move that we approve the Budget Amendment 249.15 Resolution.

MR. KORYZNO: All right. Support.

Further discussion?

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.

MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

MR. KORYZNO: Aye.

Opposed same sign.

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

Item 3, Resolutions from the Regular City Council meeting of September 15, 2015.

MR. BOVITZ: Move to accept the minutes from the council meeting of September 15, 2015.

MR. KORYZNO: Support.

Any further discussion?

MR. BOVITZ: No.

MR. KORYZNO: All in favor of the motion say aye?

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MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

MR. KORYZNO: Aye.

Opposed same sign?

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

Item 4, Claims and Accounts from regular city council meeting draft minutes of September 29, 2015. I'll entertain a motion.

MR. BOVITZ: Move to accept the claims and accounts from September 29, 2015, the regular city council meeting.

MR. KORYZNO: Support.

Discussion?

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: Seeing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.

MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

MR. KORYZNO: Aye.

Opposed same sign.

(No response.)

MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

Item is B, city administrator items. Item one, city council minutes were addressed in new business.

Item two, budget to actual report. Entertain a motion?

1 MR. BOVITZ: Move to accept the budget to actual
2 financial report for month of September -- I'm sorry,
3 August.

4 MR. KORYZNO: Support. Further discussion?

5 MR. BOVITZ: It looks like the revenues are way
6 ahead of the budget. That's because of the recognition of
7 the property tax revenues? Is that it? The expenses all
8 appear to be in check.

9 MR. O'NEAL: Yes.

10 MR. BOVITZ: Okay.

11 MR. KORYZNO: Very good. All in favor of the
12 motion say aye.

13 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

14 MR. KORYZNO: Aye.

15 Opposed same sign.

16 (No response.)

17 MR. KORYZNO: The motion is approved.

18 Item three, approval of updated city master
19 plan. Addressed at new business.

20 Item four. Approval of purchase of police cars;
21 was also addressed at new business.

22 Item five, approval for a new 2015 liability
23 insurance. Addressed at new business.

24 Item 6, Approval of Budget Amendment 2016-2,
25 addressed at new business.

1 Item 7: Approval of Rehman Robson Engagement
2 Letter for Annual Audit. Also addressed in new business.

3 Item 8: Approval of the use of Miller Canfield
4 as city's bond counsel. Addressed in new business.

5 Item 9: Payroll Report, addressed in New
6 Business. And finally, Item 10, Checks Released,
7 informational only. That brings us to the City
8 Administrator report. Mr. O'Neal.

9 MR. O'NEAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members
10 of the RTAB.

11 Several items if I may.

12 First, we're in a process of submitting at
13 tonight's council meeting updated five-year budget. The
14 five-year budget as presented to the RTAB and to council.
15 I was not correct in relationship to our debt schedules
16 and MERS payments. What happened, they were accurately
17 reflected within the budget so we've got some
18 modifications that had been taken in that regard and that
19 will be forwarded on to you at a future meeting.

20 I'm just completing a letter to Wayne Workman on
21 the completion of the task from his August letter to the
22 city of Ecorse. We look forward to the end report of the
23 RTAB that you would report favorably on the progress the
24 city of Ecorse has made relative to those items that were
25 in the previous RTAB assessment from a year ago. In the

1 letter Mr. Workman indicated that that would be delayed to
2 such time as we were able to address some of those items.

3 You will note one of the -- we're in the process
4 of having audit on our water system. We have an
5 approximately 25 percent loss rate in our residential and
6 we are hiring a company to come and take a look at our
7 water system and go through our buildings, make sure all
8 our homes are properly registered, that our accounts are
9 right on that.

10 Also, you'll note, I believe you've got the
11 minutes where there's a motion to terminate my employment
12 from the city of Ecorse. And the vote failed on a 4 to 3
13 vote. That came on the heels of discussion relative to
14 some actions that were being taken by the city of Ecorse
15 and specifically some items that were taken by me as the
16 city administrator. As you know, I was here on two
17 different occasions; one from about five months ago and
18 then back since February as appointed administrator. As
19 part of that I've identified a number of irregularities
20 that have taken place within the city of Ecorse and were
21 consenting at the ongoing investigation, many of which
22 cannot discuss. But as it relates to the O'Brien
23 Supermarket, at that council meeting, the Board
24 entertained a motion to terminate my employment,
25 ostensibly because of delays associated with the opening

1 of O'Brien's Market. As the TAB board is aware and
2 council is aware, the project was delayed when I
3 discovered and reported irregularities with the permitting
4 and inspection process as well as incompatible zoning for
5 the project site.

6 As city administrator I was obligated to
7 identify and report these matters to assure compliance
8 with state law and local ordinance. I am pleased to
9 report that the proper permits have now been obtained and
10 the inspection process is underway. The delay associated
11 with this project was mandated by law. Any subsequent
12 delay was a result of the property schedule and not the
13 city of Ecorse.

14 The city council and the TAB board and the
15 public can now rest assured that the construction process
16 is in compliance with the law.

17 As I indicated earlier, Mr. Chairman, and
18 members of the RTAB, I am required to facilitate any and
19 all corrections to any irregularities that I may find and
20 I continue to pursue that by and through Chief Moore, the
21 controller's office, the Attorney General's office,
22 anywhere that we have to go and we're doing that. We can
23 rest assured that we are following through these processes
24 in a proper manner and will continue to do that.

25 I will say to you that you know that this is the

1 election season here in Ecorse and as such there are
2 candidates that have indicated that if they were to attain
3 certain offices that the office of city administrator,
4 public safety director and any other number of offices
5 have been promised to other individuals within the
6 community. Now, while I don't concern myself with that as
7 it relates to my job function and my job evaluation that I
8 might point out, I'm not sure if you've received that --
9 those minutes yet from the meeting which my evaluation was
10 done.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Indiscernible)

12 MS. BOOMS: They are the September 29 minutes.

13 MR. O'NEAL: And you'll note in there, I don't
14 know if it specifically says in there but out of a
15 possible 25 points I was given a rating of 23.58 out of
16 25. Yeah, you've got that. It was approved on a five/two
17 vote. There were members of the commission that chose not
18 to submit any evaluation. Of course we assume that they
19 have problems and might not submit an evaluation. If they
20 had a problem they should submit something. I know Mr.
21 Koryzno, you've already been through this about 40 times
22 yourself and how these are very, very fun to go through.
23 I like them. I look at them as a challenge. It lets the
24 city administrator know where his or her strong points are
25 but more importantly his or her weak points so that you

1 can address those items and make yourself better for the
2 benefit for the community. So with that I have members of
3 the council that were here that were very kind in their
4 evaluation of me and I look forward to being at Ecorse for
5 some time.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. KORYZNO: Thank you. Hold on Mr. O'Neal.
8 Do you have any questions, Mr. Bovitz, for Mr. O'Neal?

9 MR. BOVITZ: No, it looks it was entertaining
10 meeting, though.

11 Looks like it was an entertaining meeting.
12 Accusing the mayor of not paying his property taxes and
13 other things so I'm sure the politics were raging.

14 MR. O'NEAL: Yes, the politics was working
15 pretty good there.

16 MR. KORYZNO: Very good. Thank you.

17 MR. O'NEAL: You're welcome.

18 MR. KORYZNO: Next item is public comment.
19 You'll have two minutes to speak pursuant to the Board
20 rules. Mr. Van de Grift will call your name and you can
21 approach the podium, please. Mr. Van de Grift will also
22 serve as timekeeper.

23 MR. VAN DE GRIFT: Ms. Katherine Semos.

24 MS. SEMOS: I am Katherine Semos, at 11 1/2 West
25 Woodward.

1 MR. KORYZNO: Good morning.

2 MS. SEMOS: Good morning.

3 As you know, I've stood before you before in
4 total support of Mr. O'Neal here and the job he does and
5 the job he does every single day, for the city of Ecorse.
6 I respect him and he gets my respect. As far as the city
7 council, my personal opinion about it is with his
8 evaluation and what happened at the last council meeting
9 is personal. It's just a love/hate relationship. With
10 some city council members have with Mr. O'Neal. And it's
11 not fair to Mr. O'Neal. They're the ones who waited one
12 week before to bring him back to us. Again, I don't know
13 if it's the second or third time back with the city of
14 Ecorse but they waited to the last minute to bring him
15 back so it's the council's fault. For waiting for that
16 long but I just want you to know that this is personal.
17 That like Mr. O'Neal said, as soon as certain people get
18 on the council when the election is over, he's going to be
19 the first one cut. And these positions are going to be
20 promised to people, to residents who don't even know how
21 to spell politics. Is going to be given these positions.
22 And I also shared with council last meeting that, don't
23 give this city what it wants. Give it what it needs. And
24 I don't know if that hit home with some people of it
25 didn't but I don't care. I speak my mind, I say my mind.

1 And again, I'm here to repeat myself, not to be redundant
2 but I'm in full support of Mr. O'Neal and what's going on
3 with council and his position is totally personal. It's
4 personal. It's a love/hate relationship and I hate to see
5 that but it's very immature and it's childish and it's got
6 to stop somewhere. So I would back up Mr. O'Neal with
7 every decision he makes day-to-day every minute of the day
8 for the city of Ecorse and like you're supposed to. So,
9 thank you for your time.

10 MR. KORYZNO: Thank you, Ms. Semos.

11 MR. VAN de GRIFT: Mr. Kevin Barkman.

12 MR. BARKMAN: I pass.

13 MR. VAN de GRIFT: All right.

14 Linda Lore.

15 MS. LORE: Exactly all I need is two minutes.

16 This will be a challenge for me because I
17 normally don't talk for two minutes, I go on. But I want
18 to also say that Mr. O'Neal is an honest man and in Ecorse
19 right now we don't want honest. And I feel he is very
20 honest for this job. The votes that they did, there was
21 three of them that did not vote, or voted against him and
22 I feel the three that didn't were on a little team and I
23 feel he is honest for Ecorse and I feel because it is an
24 election they are pulling all the stops out and I have a
25 feeling that you guys are going to be back in a couple

1 years because if the mayor changes hands we're in deep,
2 deep shit. So I hope -- I apologize. This is nothing new
3 to me. Like I said two minutes is new to me but the
4 people that know me know I speak from the heart. This is
5 an election year and all of the things are not true. Mr.
6 O'Neal is working for the city. He's very honest and I
7 believe we need to keep him.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. KORYZNO: Thank you.

10 MS. LORE: And thank you, Mr. O'Neal.

11 MR. O'NEAL: Thank you.

12 MS. LORE: What time is it?

13 (Pause.)

14 MR. KORYZNO: All right.

15 That's the end of public comments. The next
16 item is board comment. Any comments for the board?

17 MR. BOVITZ: Well, one thing we approved was the
18 2015 master plan and I just want to tell the residents out
19 there and the city workers that as a lifelong resident of
20 downriver growing up in the sixties and seventies and
21 going to Gabriel Richard and many of my friends from
22 Ecorse and then in the late seventies I saw this city when
23 it was in its prime and it's been kind of heart wrenching
24 for me to come back and see how the city has changed in
25 the last few years. But when you look at this master plan

1 and the dreams that can happen in the city, if the city
2 can just take some small steps to, you know, with the
3 challenge they have with the declining population base and
4 the industrial base and so forth but I think if you look
5 at the master plan you start getting some hope and I think
6 you'll see some positive things happening for Ecorse. And
7 believe me, my heart's with you, so.

8 MR. KORYZNO: Thank you, Mr. Bovitz. I have no
9 comment so I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

10 MR. BOVITZ: So moved.

11 MR. KORYZNO: Support.

12 All in favor?

13 MR. BOVITZ: Aye.

14 MR. KORYZNO: Aye. The meeting is adjourned at
15 9:22 a.m.

16 Thank you.

17 (At 9:22 a.m. meeting concluded.)
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WASHTENAW) .ss

I certify that this transcript is a complete, true, and correct transcript to the best of my ability of the RTAB meeting held on October 13, City of Ecorse. I also certify that I am not a relative or employee of the parties involved and have no financial interest in this case.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: October 14, 2015

s/ Amy Shankleton-Novess

Amy Shankleton-Novess (CER 0838)
Certified Electronic Reporter