

# **Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency**

## **Special Called Meeting Minutes**

### **September 12, 2024**

The Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency (PBURA) held a called meeting on September 12, 2024, 12:15 p.m., in the Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Offices.

The following commissioners were in attendance:

Jimmy Dill, Chair  
Lloyd Franklin, Sr., Treasurer, via Zoom  
Travis Martin  
Kirby Mouser, Vice Chair

Commissioners absent:

None

Others in attendance:

Leigh Cockrum  
Branson Evans, Level 5, via Zoom  
Chandra Griffin, Executive Director  
Attorney Cody Keys  
Ryan Watley via Zoom

Chairman Dill called the meeting to order. There was a quorum.

Executive Director Griffin presented a contract with Level 5 for a change in scope of work for the go-kart track for ratification. The increase is for \$57,278.40 in design fees. The original contract was signed in February 2024.

The cap of \$1M was removed and increased the size of the building to 5,000 square feet. The building will house the food vendor (food prep, cooking area, dining), ticketing area and increased size of rest rooms.

The money is in the budget.

Commissioner Mouser made a motion to ratify the approval of the \$57,278.40 additional expense on the contract and expand the size of the building. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ED Griffin and Level 5 put out a bid request for the go-kart track. The first bid request had no responses, the second bid had five respondents. Level 5 tabulated all five respondents and recommended the contract be awarded to Beebe Commercial LLC.

Commissioner Martin made a motion to issue a Notice of Intent to Award a contract to Beebe Commercial LLC for construction of the Go Kart Track in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Commissioner Mouser seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ED Griffin reported a check was received from the Arkansas Insurance Department for \$300,000 for restitution from the Taggart and Morris case. The check was received and deposited on August 21. The check is supposed to go back to where the money came from which was the Demolition line item. The plan is to present the check receipt to the mayor at the next city council meeting.

Commissioner Franklin made a motion to accept the receipt of \$300,000 from the Arkansas Insurance Department to be deposited to the Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency's Demolition line item. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Dill reported there was \$667,000 in restitution that was awarded the PBURA at the sentencing trial for Mr. Roderick Morris. We recovered the maximum amount from the Insurance Department that we could get. That leaves another \$367,000.00 to recover.

Chairman Dill has been in contact with Samuel High with the Wilson Law Firm in Little Rock. Mr. High has some good ideas on trying to recover the remaining funds. Chairman Dill would like the Board to approve engaging his services. Mr. High has estimated approximately 30 hours at \$250.00 per hour for the case. Chairman Dill believes the services may amount to as much as \$10,000.00.

This request will be presented for approval at the next meeting of the PBURA.

No public comments were made.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

/s/ Leigh Cockrum  
Leigh Cockrum  
Recorder

/s/ Travis Martin  
Travis Martin  
Secretary