

**CITY OF UTICA URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – JULY 20, 2018
1 KENNEDY PLAZA, UTICA, NEW YORK 13502**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Councilman Bill Phillips, Councilman Robert DeSanctis, Dave Farina, Michael Mahoney, Robin Harris, Mayor Robert Palmieri, Fred Matrulli

OTHERS ATTENDING: Brian Thomas, Merima Smajic

EXCUSED:

CALL TO ORDER: By Brian Thomas at 9:05 A.M.

New Business

ITEM #1 1402 Elm Street – MOU with The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties

Merritt Locke, a Board member of The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, presented the Agency with their request to enter into a short-term Memorandum of Understanding and a Site Access Agreement for the former Utica Free Academy gymnasium building, located at 1402 Elm Street. She noted that the Foundation has had preliminary discussions with various individuals and entities within the surrounding Cornhill neighborhood about the possibility of developing a community center together with other partners. She added that up until the City foreclosed on the Elm Street property that discussion had centered on the construction of a new building. With this property becoming available, the Foundation would like time to fully evaluate and analyze the feasibility of rehabilitating the building for use as a community center. To that end, the Foundation is preparing to submit a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for such a study.

Brian Thomas thanked the Agency Board members for making themselves available for the special meeting, noting that the State's CFA deadline required that the special meeting be held. A number of Agency Board members pledged support for the effort to develop a community center for the Cornhill neighborhood, including Mayor Palmieri and Common Council representatives Bill Phillips and Bob DeSanctis.

Mayor Palmieri made a motion that the Utica Urban Renewal Agency enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties for the express purpose of allowing the Foundation to conduct a feasibility study evaluating the future use of the property at 1402 Elm Street as a community center. In addition, the motion granted approval of a Site Access Agreement between the Agency and the Foundation for the same property. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bill Phillips and passed unanimously.

ITEM #2 Adjournment

Mayor Palmieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 A.M. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bill Phillips and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of August 2018
Brian Thomas