

2023 Kansas Statutes

17-4747. Urban renewal plans; preparation and approval; acquisition of real property for urban renewal project, limitation. (a) A municipality shall not prepare an urban renewal plan for an urban renewal area unless the governing body has, by resolution, determined such an area to be a slum area or a blighted area or a combination thereof and designated such area as appropriate for an urban renewal project. The local governing body shall not approve an urban renewal plan until a general plan for the municipality has been prepared. A municipality shall not acquire real property for an urban renewal project by exercise of the power of eminent domain unless the local governing body has approved the urban renewal plan in accordance with subsection (d) hereof: Provided, A municipality may acquire real property at any time, within an area which the local governing body has determined appropriate for an urban renewal project and regardless of whether or not an urban renewal plan for the area has been approved, by means other than the exercise of the power of eminent domain, whenever the local governing body shall have approved, by resolution, of the acquisition of real property in such an urban renewal area. In order to qualify for financial assistance from the federal government in making such acquisitions, and regardless of any other provisions of the laws of Kansas, the local governing body may assume the responsibility to the federal government to bear any loss that may arise as a result of such acquisition in the event the property so acquired is not used for urban renewal purposes because an urban renewal plan for the project area is not approved, or is amended to omit any of the acquired property, or is abandoned for any reason: Provided further, Real property so acquired shall be subject to all other provisions of the urban renewal law the same as property otherwise acquired, except that in the event the property so acquired is not used for urban renewal purposes because an urban renewal plan for the project area is not approved, or is amended to omit any of the acquired property, or is abandoned for any reason, the property may be disposed of under such reasonable competitive bidding procedures as the municipality shall prescribe.

(b) The municipality may itself prepare or cause to be prepared an urban renewal plan, or any person or agency, public or private, may submit such a plan to the municipality. Prior to its approval of an urban renewal plan, the local governing body shall submit such plan to the planning commission of the municipality, if any, for review and recommendations as to its conformity with the general plan for the development of the municipality as a whole. The planning commissions shall submit their written recommendations with respect to the proposed urban renewal plan to the local governing body within thirty (30) days after receipt of the plan for review. Upon receipt of the recommendations of the planning commission or, if no recommendations are received within said thirty (30) days, then without such recommendations, the local governing body may proceed with the hearing on the proposed urban renewal plan prescribed by subsection (c) hereof.

(c) The local governing body shall hold a public hearing on an urban renewal plan or substantial modification of an approved urban renewal plan, after public notice thereof by publication in a newspaper having a general circulation in the area of operation of the municipality. The notice shall describe the time, date, place and purpose of the hearing, shall generally identify the urban renewal area covered by the plan, and shall outline the general scope of the urban renewal project under consideration.

(d) Following such hearing, the local governing body may approve an urban renewal plan if it finds that: (1) A feasible method exists for the location of families who will be displaced from the urban renewal area in decent, safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations within their means and without undue hardship to such families; (2) the urban renewal plan conforms to the general plan of the municipality as a whole; and (3) the urban renewal plan will afford maximum opportunity, consistent with the sound needs of the municipality as a whole, for the rehabilitation or redevelopment of the urban renewal area by private enterprise: Provided, That if the urban renewal area or a portion thereof consists of a blighted area of open land which is to be acquired by the municipality for slum clearance and redevelopment, such blighted

area shall not be so acquired unless (1) it is to be redeveloped for predominantly residential uses, and (2) the local governing body shall determine that a shortage of housing of sound standards and design which is decent, safe and sanitary exists in the municipality; that the need for housing accommodations has been or will be increased as a result of the clearance of slums in other areas (including other portions of the urban renewal area); that the conditions of blight in the area and the shortage of decent, safe and sanitary housing cause or contribute to an increase in and spread of disease and crime and constitute a menace to the public health, safety, morals or welfare; and that the redevelopment of the area for predominantly residential uses is an integral part of and essential to the program of the municipality for the elimination of slum and blighted areas.

(e) An urban renewal plan may be modified at any time: Provided, That if modified after the lease or sale by the municipality of real property in the urban renewal project area, such modification shall be subject to such rights at law or in equity as a lessee or purchaser, or his successor or successors in interest may be entitled to assert. Any proposed modification which will substantially change the urban renewal plan as previously approved by the local governing body shall be subject to the requirements of this section, including the requirement of a public hearing, before it may be approved.

(f) Upon the approval of an urban renewal plan by the municipality the provisions of said plan with respect to the future use and building requirements applicable to the property covered by said plan shall be controlling with respect thereto.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, where the local governing body certifies that an area is in need of redevelopment or rehabilitation as result of a flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, storm, or other catastrophe respecting which the governor of the state has certified the need for disaster assistance under public law 875, eighty-first congress, or other federal law, the local governing body may approve an urban renewal plan and an urban renewal project with respect to such area without regard to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section and the provisions of this act requiring a general plan for the municipality and a public hearing on the urban renewal project.

History: L. 1955, ch. 86, § 6; L. 1961, ch. 122, § 1; L. 1967, ch. 127, § 1; March 1.