



### **Minutes of the Public Hearing**

Held on Monday, April 1, 2013

6:45 p.m.

President Rimbart called the Public Hearing to order at 6:50 p.m., regarding a proposed request for CDBG funding under the Formula Allocation Grant Program.

Members Present: Charles Peterson, Bryan Burgess, Sharon Soucy, Elizabeth Meadows, Scott Broadwell, Aaron Mucciolo, and Ronnie Rimbart.

Others Present: Belinda Anderson, Clerk of Council; Eric Severs, Law Director; Eric Norenberg, City Manager; Sal Talarico, Finance Director; Gary Boyle, Director of Planning & Development Patti Lines, Lines and Associates.

City Manager, Eric Norenberg offered introductory remarks and turned the discussion over to Gary Boyle, Director of Planning and Development, and Jeff Baumann, Public Works Director.

Boyle provided an overview of the CDBG Formula Allocation Program highlighting the following key elements:

1. The CDBG Program is intended to provide benefit to low and moderate income persons to avoid the creation of or assist with the removal of slum and blight conditions or assist with other urgent or unforeseen need of the community.
2. The City is required to conduct two (2) public hearings whenever a grant application for assistance is to be filed under the CDBG Program.
3. The City conducted the first public hearing to provide general information on the CDBG Programs on February 25<sup>th</sup> and this is the second required public hearing, Notice of this hearing was published in the Oberlin News Tribune on March 21<sup>st</sup> and that publication more than satisfies the HUD Ohio Development Services Agency Rule that a minimum notice of the hearing be provided 10 days prior to the hearing.
4. The City has been advised by the Lorain County Community Development Department that funding is potentially available under the CDBG Formula Application Program. The County has not, however, indicated the exact amount of funding that could possibly be available under this program. In the past it has ranged between \$25,000 to \$30,000, for sidewalk improvements in eligible neighborhoods, park improvements, and for the installation of an elevator at old City Hall.
5. This is a "Competitive" program and other communities in the County may also be seeking grant funding.

6. Grant applications under this program must be submitted to the County by Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> by 4:30 p.m.
7. After reviewing possible City projects under the grant program, the City has identified that the installation of sidewalks and handicap accessible ramps in the southeast quadrants census tract 601, block group three (3) area, would be desirable to provide for safe pedestrian movements. Also, it would contribute to the City's overall planning efforts related to ensuring a complete and functional sidewalk system throughout the community. Approximately eight (8) Ramps will be installed and about 600 feet of sidewalks constructed. Such installations are considered to be an eligible activity under the CDBG Program Rules as the proposed sidewalks and ramp installations will benefit an area of low and moderate income persons.
8. The Public Works Director and the City Engineer have reviewed the proposed project and have identified the scope of the proposed work and the potential costs in this regard, the project is estimated to cost in the area of \$32,000.00.
9. If funded this would be work that the City would undertake in calendar year 2014.
10. Public Works Director Jeff Baumann will be able to provide information on any questions that Council may have related to the technical aspects of such a proposal.

Boyle provided a short list of alternative plans that were under consideration for the program. He noted that ultimately staff felt that the proposed program would benefit the City the most for this year's funding round.

Mucciolo asked what kind of shape were the sidewalks and ramps in, and if he were referring to preexisting ramps? Baumann noted that there were a couple of residential sidewalk sections along Spring Street on the east side that's in the census tract block group that were in need of repair. They were also proposing to extend the sidewalk across the entrance to the Clark Court apartments, where there is no sidewalk and in order to make the location accessible to pedestrians. The biggest single area was located on the Groveland Street frontage of Mickey Mart, they are proposing to remove their deteriorated curbs and install a new curb along that edge: the sidewalk behind the curb would be replaced as well. There is also a section on East Vine Street in front of the four (4) LMHA houses that are currently under construction that would connect with the planned future sidewalk under the Safe Routes to School Project that would go the rest of the way, down East Vine between Park and Pleasant Streets on the north side. It was further noted that the ramps, in all cases, did exist but they didn't currently meet the slope requirements.

In response to Boyle's list of alternative plans, Soucy reassured members of the visually impaired public that staff would be in touch with individuals who have expressed an interest in discussing the proposed future "audible signals project. Boyle remarked that as staff began to finalize those plans to proceed with the project individuals would be identified for additional input.

Being that there was no further business to come before Council at this time the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Attest:

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BELINDA B. ANDERSON, CMC  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

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RONNIE J. RIMBERT  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED:04/15/2013

POSTED: 04/15/2013