

Walterboro City Council
Virtual Regular Meeting (Using Zoom)
January 5, 2021

MINUTES

A Phone/Video Conference Virtual Meeting using Zoom was held by Walterboro City Council at City Hall on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young, Councilmembers: Paul Siegel, Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, James Broderick, Greg Pryor, and Ladson Fishburne. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson, City Clerk Callie Seals and City Attorneys George Cone and Brown McLeod were also present.

CALL TO ORDER:

With all Councilmembers present, the Mayor called the meeting to order, and invited everyone to join in as he gave the invocation. Mayor Young led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

At this point, the Mayor stated public input on agenda items had been distributed to Council by email.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Chad Simons expressed concerns about the City's requirement to wear a mask when in public and in business establishments. He stated that most businesses he had recently entered the store employees were not complying with the Ordinance. He asked why no citations had been written by law enforcement for those not complying.
2. Carol Black expressed concerns about the City's lack of enforcement in the mask ordinance, stating more tickets should be issued, not warnings, and asking what more could be done to publicize the ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. CDBG Needs Assessment Hearing – Michelle Knight, LCOG

Ms. Knight of Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) said we are holding our public hearing tonight for our annual needs assessment public hearing for 2021. She indicated the annual allocation from HUD for the program is administered by the S.C. Department of Commerce – Division of Grant Administration. S.C. has been allotted approximately \$20,128,358 in CDBG funds for 2021. There are three broad grant program categories: Community Development, Business Development, and Regional Planning. The Community Development Program is further broken down into several subcategories to address infrastructure, community facilities, and neighborhood priorities as follows: Community

Infrastructure (\$11,274,508), Community Enrichment (\$3,000,000), Ready to Go (\$600,000), National Objective, and Neighborhood Revitalization (\$1,000,000 – must have a plan), with a 10% match requirement for all projects.

Also, there are three other grant program categories which are to include the following: Business Development Program (\$2,000,000), Regional Planning Program (\$500,000) and State TA & Admin (\$703,850).

A few other key points noted by Ms. Knight were:

1. **Opportunity Zones** – Projects located in these areas will received an additional 10 bonus points;
2. **Performance Threshold** – A unit of local government can apply for an additional Community Development grant if it has no more than two open CBDG grants (excluding Business Development or Regional Planning grants). However, the open grants must not have exceeded a 30-month grant period. No more than one Neighborhood Revitalization/Village Renaissance or streetscape project. No more than one Ready to Go project. No more than one project for the same general target area/neighborhood open at the same time unless the current project is under construction.
3. **Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional Home Consortium (LRHC)** – is comprised of the following counties: Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper and all 21 municipalities in the region. Top three objectives: rehabilitation of substandard housing, increase accessibility to adequate and affordable housing, and support of the development and availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing. Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties have areas that are in need of affordable housing, rehabilitation of substandard housing, and demolition of vacant/dilapidated houses. As the housing stock ages, there becomes a greater need for rehabilitation houses. As the housing stock ages, there becomes a greater need for rehabilitation of substandard houses and the number of vacant/dilapidated houses increases while increasing the number of persons at risk for homelessness. Please give us a list of the priority housing needs for your area to be considered in our upcoming 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan to be submitted to HUD by April 30, 2021.
4. **Coronavirus Response (CDBG-CVI)** – Funding is part of the March 2020 CARES Act. Projects must meet one of three national objectives: Benefit to low-to-moderate income persons, aid in the preventing or eliminating of slum and blight, and meet an urgent need. Environmental reviews and other program requirement apply. Does not count against CDBG threshold. No local match required. For more info: www.cdbgsc.com
5. **Community/Public Services** – Purpose - Provide new or quantifiably increased public services that will primarily benefit low and moderate income (LMI) individuals and are needed to prepare for, respond to and prevent the coronavirus. Award - \$214,621 per County or \$585,483 for Lowcountry Region. Deadline – Funding priorities due by March 1, 2021. Possible activities (not limited to): personal protective equipment (PPE), leave of a facility, equipment and other property needed for a public service (ventilators, medical equipment, vehicle for mobile health care), COVID-19 testing and contact tracking, food pantries, food distributions and delivery for elderly or other primarily LMI residents, after school education, senior services.
6. **Public Facilities** – Purpose – To adapt, retrofit or rehabilitate existing schools and other publicly owned facilities to provide services in a manner that complies with public health guidelines. Award - \$3,000,000 statewide competition. Deadline – letter to intent due by July 1, 2021. Possible activities (not limited to): HVAC and air filtration improvements, expansion and remodeling of

classrooms to facilitate social distancing, equipment or public improvements needed to expand or improve internet access.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session. Councilmember Pryor made the motion, and Councilmember Broderick seconded.

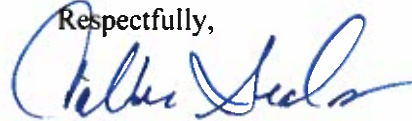
- a) Discussion of Matters Encouraging the Proposed Location of Expansion of Businesses in the Central Business District.

OPEN SESSION:

The meeting returned to Open Session by motion made by Councilmember Brown, and Councilmember Broderick. No action was taken.

There being no further business to consider a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne and passed unanimously. The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:11 P.M. Notice of this meeting, call-in phone number, webinar I.D. and link to view the video were distributed with the agenda packets, to all local media, posted on City Hall bulletin boards and on the City's website at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,



Callie Seals
City Clerk

APPROVED: February 2, 2021