

## **JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting: March 9, 2020**  
**Place of Meeting: Marion City Hall**

Chairman Ratliff called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present -- Ratliff, Neff, Meade

### **MINUTES:**

Neff made a motion to approve 01/06/2020; Meade 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call: Ayes – Ratliff, Neff, Meade; Nays – none

### **MINTUES OF 01/06/2020 APPROVED (3-0)**

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Item 1. Regional Planning request for discussion: Application for a joint City & County CHIP (home repair) grant (CDBG)

Evelyn Warr-Cummings provided a handout. CHIP Housing Grant is offered competitive through the state of Ohio, similar to CDBG. It is a more complicated program because it has a couple of different sources of funds that have their own regulations. Application is due 05/20. This would be the first time that we can do this as a joint project with the county. The total request would be \$750,000 for the combined grant. They would need to have a 1<sup>st</sup> public hearing. County will be the lead scheduled for 03/10 at 10AM. Housing Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday to look at needs vs. projects. Ultimately, Commissioners will have second public hearing. That is where we will be actually picking the projects. In the meantime, there will be an agreement to partner between the City and County. We would be doing this with Ohio Development Corporation (grant writers with expertise). One type of repair would be owner-occupied rehabilitation to bring all parts of the house up to code. Maximum per property is about \$46,000 per house, but she would need to confirm. Rehabilitation can be difficult with owner-occupied homes. Also, major repair would be another item and would include a roof or furnace, etc. Commissioners are not as comfortable with rental rehabilitation. There is a way to do it 50/50 with the property owner. We have done this as a city in the past. We have the flexibility to set policy. They do not want to get it too complicated, because they want to assure that the money is spent. In the past, they were also able to help with some expenses for Habitat.

Commissioners would be the grantee. We would sign an agreement to partner with them. The City would jump on board the Commissioner's program to maximize funding

to township. Ratliff said he would prefer a joint project. Warr-Cummings said nothing required from City right now. There would be an agreement at a later date.

There are strings attached, i.e. specific eligibility requirements, and come with who the beneficiary will be. Renters and/or landlord need to be low income. Rent needs to be logical and fair market. Unit must be brought to a certain standard and insured. Contractors need to be state credentialed. The property may need to be "affordable" for a certain number of years. There are protections against raising rent or flipping. This helps improve the housing stock because there is not a lot of money going into improving homes because of financial constraints.

Neff expressed his support for the program. He is concerned about the relationship with commissioners and feels that it is important that the city has some say in it. Warr-Cummings stated that the city has more experience with this type of grant. A maximum of 12% is allowable for administrative costs. Warr-Cummings stated that they would keep their share around \$5,000 and the remaining would be spent on the consultant and inspection staff. There is a stipulation for emergency repairs, i.e. emerging problems (\$100,000 is maximum request). There is some possibility of using it for tearing down existing structures.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

With no further business to come before this Committee, Ratliff adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

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Chairman Ratliff

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Clerk of Council