

JOB & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: May 3, 2021
Place of Meeting: Marion City Hall

Chairman Ratliff called the meeting to order at 6:49 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Present -- Ratliff, Neff, Meade

MINUTES:

Neff made a motion to adopt; Meade 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes – Ratliff, Neff, Meade; Nays -- none

MINUTES OF 04/19/2021 ADOPTED (3-0)

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 1. Hearing CDBG Projects -- discussion only -- applicants (Warr-Cummings)

- **Founders Park (slum and blight)**
- **Buses to YMCA for Kids; updated 4:19 PM 04/19/2021**
- **NIA House**
- **Fairground SW**
- **Broad St SW (removed – will be completed prior to grant – was budgeted at \$25-30,000 – this was a qualifying LMI project)**
- **Spread Sheet of Proposals**

Mrs. Warr-Cummings stated that they are requesting a recommendation on a tentative budget and a proposed list of projects. This is not final. Additional comments will be taken during the public hearing. Henry Street (Broad Street) project will be done prior to grant and can be removed from list per Bischoff. It was a qualifying low/moderate income project and they will need to keep that in mind to be sure those thresholds. They may need to add money to other LMI projects. Maximum they can do on “slum and blight” is \$80,000. They can only have three projects.

Total is \$162,000 after the administration fee as clarified by Warr-Cummings. Ratliff asked for clarification on LMI vs. slum and blight. Warr Cummings said that ADA compliance is LMI. Items serving individuals with disabilities will qualify as LMI and go towards threshold.

Mr. Neff said that his constituents are concerned with fire-damaged structures. There are 16 fire-damaged, uninsured, unrepairable homes in town. The maximum \$80,000 towards clearance, he feels is best used on demolition of these properties.

Mr. Neff said that there are different groups with different proposals for Founders Park. He thinks that they need to get together and created a solid plan. He said phase 1 will get the ball rolling for \$25,000. He then thinks they could go to community to pursue private funding to develop that park. He cited an example in Bucyrus of a privately funded park.

Ratliff clarified that if the committee dedicated \$80,000 to demolition, they would have no more funds in slum and blight. That would remove doing phase one in Founders Park. By default, they would only have one project left. Ratliff agreed that demolition is an important thing to be funded.

Ratliff stated that he believes that the NIA House is an interesting, needed project. He believes that they need to have a backup plan, in case something falls through on the NIA House (because of all of the unknowns). It may be premature. He also believes that they should look at Lincoln Park and finds basketball courts extremely appealing. Park projects help support youth activities.

Service Director Chaffin provided information on transporting to YMCA. ODOT funding will not allow them to dedicate a bus solely for that purpose. That is outside what they are able to do. Phase one on Founder's Park will completed this year and they are looking to CDBG monies for phase 2 under the LMI (accessibility).

Meade agreed that Lincoln Park was a worthwhile project and may need some additional funding. He is also a proponent of the sidewalks for the 1st Ward so people can access services like laundromat and grocery store.

Neff mentioned the Marion Pep Club that is in place to upgrade parks. He mentioned preparing a proposal for the Marion Community Foundation. Ratliff said that they have had mixed results in the past for pursuing private/charitable grants.

Discussion continued with options for funding and projects. Warr-Cummings indicated that there is state level CARES Act money. It is first come first service and needs to be loosely tied to the Pandemic. The state representative that she had talked with sounds like the NIA house may be eligible. She is unsure as to whether the City is eligible. She will find out prior to the ordinance being passed. She is asking about Founders Park because it is an option to move entertainment outside rather than inside. She recommends picking 4 projects, with on being interchangeable with the others in some fashion. City will be ahead by having one project that has a sliding scale than can expand or contract based on expenses in other areas. He does not like to see any money left on the table.

Daniels prefers to fund projects dedicated to city property and that all citizens can use. He does not feel that they have enough information about the organization and the NIA House project. He is uneasy that they do not have a track record nor do they have a stand-alone nonprofit status. He agrees that demolitions are something that make

citizens immediately happy with government. He did specify that he does not bid on any of these types of projects.

Final recommendations for projects and budget are as follows: \$33,500 for basketball courts at Lincoln, \$48,500 for the sidewalk projects, and \$80,000 for demolitions.

Neff made a motion to approve recommended budget; Meade 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes – Ratliff, Neff, Meade; Nays -- none

**PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED AND SENT ON TO COUNCIL –
ORDINANCE TO BE PREPARED (3-0)**

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 1. tempRES 2021-11: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS IN MARION CITY AND CREATING AN ANNUAL EVENT IN SUPPORT FOR THEM ON THE THIRD THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY IN JUNE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Meade)

Meade explained that this expands event to three days and is driven by the requests of businesses. Many activities will be similar to last year.

Mr. Dan Clark (252 Homer Street) asked if this was the responsibility of the city council. He believes that the Chamber should be responsible for this.

Ratliff explained that this is just a resolution in support. No funds are being spent.

Meade made a motion to approve; Ratliff 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes – Ratliff, Neff, Meade; Nays -- none

tempRES 2021-11 APPROVED AND SENT TO COUNCIL (3-0)

OTHER BUSINESS:

With no further business to come before this Committee, Ratliff adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Chairman Ratliff

Clerk of Council

