

PUBLIC HEARING
2019 CDBG Program

August 5, 2019

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Michael Dulaney
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
Fred Mays
Ryan Rudegear

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Kevin Anundson, Chief of Police
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Deb Eckelberger, Franklin Development Director
Sheila Boughner, Community Development Coordinator
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Alan & Alaina Wallace, 217 Elk Street
Chris Dolan, 215 Elk Street
Diane W Dickey, 219 Elk Street
John Andrew & Karla S. Bell, 223 Elk Street
Joseph Hart, 312 Tenth Street
Julie Angele, 612 Tenth Street
Ginny Kellogg, Venango Co Animal Response Team
Lorri Warner, Venango Co Animal Response Team
Bev Hart, Venango Co Animal Response Team
Bob Smith, Venango Co Animal Response Team
June Rankin, no address listed
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Chris Rossetti, Explore Venango

Mayor Baker called the hearing to order at 7 PM.

Ms. Boughner explained that this was the preliminary public hearing for the City's 2019 Community Development Block Grant program. The City was recently notified of its allocation of \$298,505, up by \$2,256 from the City's FY-2018 allocation. She noted that with \$53,730 (18%) for administration, there will be approximately \$244,755 for project uses.

She reviewed the low/moderate income ranges for Venango County and indicated that all CDBG Projects must meet one of the following objectives:

- Benefits a majority of low/moderate income persons
- Prevents or eliminates slums and blight
- Addresses an urgent threat or need

She also reviewed the types of eligible and ineligible projects, past CDBG-funded activities and the City's statement of replacement. She and City staff are exploring possible uses, including infrastructure, recreation, street improvements, sidewalks, and demolition. She noted that the biggest change this year is that under the new American Community Survey data, more than 51% of City residents (53.26%) are of low to moderate incomes, and as a result, projects benefitting all residents are once again a possibility.

She advised the Council that the application must be submitted by November 1, 2019, and is requesting approval of the projects at the September 9 council meeting and that the second public hearing be held on October 7, prior to the regular Council meeting. Barring any objections, the projects could then be submitted to Council for approval at its regular meeting following the hearing. The funds should be available by mid-summer 2020.

Mr. Bell, spokesman for a group of residents in the 200 block of Elk Street, asked if CDBG monies could be used to fix the road in the 100 and 200 blocks of Elk Street. He advised that the amount of heavy trucks that frequently travel the road for Komatsu as well as City vehicles are a huge reason for the condition of the road. Ms. Boughner advised that the service area must be primarily residential and must meet the identified needs of LMI persons. She explained that with only four homes located on those blocks, along with Outdoor Allegheny River Services, Komatsu Mining Corp, and the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant, this area would not qualify as an LMI service area.

Mr. Bell asked if he paid to have the road paved, would the City reimburse him. Mrs. Jamieson noted that this area could be paved with Liquid Fuels monies; however, the streets have already been chosen for this year. Mayor Baker assured those in attendance that when they review the streets to be paved with next year's Liquid Fuels monies, usually in the Spring, this area will be considered.

There being no further comments or questions from the Council or the public, Mayor Baker closed the hearing at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary