

2020 CDBG and CDBG-CV PRELIMINARY PUBLIC HEARING
June 8, 2020

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
Christian Marshall
Fred Mays
Ryan Rudegeair

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Sheila Boughner, Community Development Coordinator
Tracy Jamieson, City Manager and Recording Secretary
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Jim Wetzel, Fire Chief
Kevin Anundson, Police Chief
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement Officer
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Aly Delp, Explore Venango

In keeping with social distancing measures relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the hearing was held via tele/video conference and was recorded for posting on the City's website along with related documents.

Mayor Baker called the hearing to order at 7:02 p.m.

Ms. Boughner explained that this was the preliminary public hearing for the City's 2020 Community Development Block Grant program and the CDBG-CV CARES Act Program. The City's 2020 CDBG allocation is \$304,077, up by \$5,573 from the City's 2019 allocation. The City's CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation is \$193,732. It must be used for eligible activities related to the coronavirus pandemic.

She explained that all CDBG activities must benefit low/moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slums and blight or address an urgent threat or need, and that at least 70 percent of project funds must be used to benefit persons with low to moderate incomes.

She reviewed the low/moderate income ranges for Venango County and presented the City's LMI percentages by Census Tract/Block Group and for the City as a whole and pointed out those areas eligible for area-wide projects.

She also reviewed the types of eligible and ineligible projects, past CDBG-funded activities and the City's statement of replacement. She plans to seek tentative approval from council for proposed uses of the FY-2020 CDBG funds at the panel's Sept. 14, 2020 meeting. The second and final hearing for the 2020 CDBG program is planned for Oct. 5, 2020, with Council to consider the application for approval at its meeting following the hearing, pending no adverse

comments. The application is due Oct. 28, 2020.

Ms. Boughner noted three broad areas for CDBG-CV spending, including building improvements for the creation of quarantine, testing or treatment facilities; assistance to businesses to support pandemic-related enterprises or the retention of jobs held by low and moderate income persons; and support of public services responding to the pandemic and resulting social/economic crisis.

She noted that while awaiting further guidance from the state on project eligibility, the City has conducted a survey of local businesses to determine their needs relating to the pandemic and has discussed the impact with the local food bank.

She indicated the City will accept written comments on both the FY-2020 CDBG program and the CDBG-CV program through June 18, 2020. The City plans to publish a notice advertising the final public hearing and proposed uses for the CDBG-CV funds on June 26, 2020. This will allow for a 10-day public comment period prior to the final hearing on the CDBG-CV program, which is planned for 7 p.m. July 6, 2020. Pending no adverse comments, Franklin City Council is expected to take formal action on the FY-2020 CDBG-CV application at its regular meeting immediately following the Public Hearing. The application is due July 31, 2020.

There being no comments or questions from the Council, the hearing was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Jamieson, Recording Secretary