

FY-2023 CDBG PRELIMINARY PUBLIC HEARING
Council Chambers, City Hall, Franklin, PA
June 5, 2023

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

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
James Wetzel, Fire Chief
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Amanda Power, Community Development Director
Cindi Power, City of Franklin
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Bev Hart, 1333 Elk Street
Deb Eckelberger, FICDA
James and Ashley Smith, 1346 Elk Street
Alex Spaid, Dale, Woodard, Gent, McFate
David Comiske, 314 W. Park Street
Tim and Barb Matthews, 1239 Liberty Street
Jodi Lewis, 1255 Liberty Street
Jennifer Taylor, 1526 Buffalo Street
Melissa Ditzenberger and David Ballard, 233 Overlook Drive
Bernie Nerlich, 1828 Keeley Road
John Miller, 312 11th Street
Tisha Bell Miller, 1347 Otter Street
David Fox and Joseph Jenkins, 1346 Otter Street
Sarah Merkel, 1418 Elk Street
Ben Villar, 436 Edgewood Drive

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 P.M, and publicly disclosed that Council held an Executive Session on May 23, 2023 for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and potential litigation.

Mrs. Power introduced the City's FY-2023 Community Development Block Grant Program. Public comment will be received by the Community Development Department until June 16, 2023. At the time of the hearing, the City had not received its FY-2023 allocation

amount, but is estimated to be approximately \$307,000 based off of FY-2022's allocation; with 18% going towards administrative costs, the remaining amount of funds available for projects is \$251,740.

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% of project funds must be used to benefit persons with low to moderate incomes, with no more than 30% used to eliminate slums or blight.

Mrs. Power reviewed the low-moderate income ranges for Venango County and presented the City's LMI percentages, and pointed out those areas eligible for area-wide projects.

Mrs. Power then went on to review the types of eligible and ineligible projects, and past CDBG-funded activities. She reviewed the City's Statement of Replacement for occupied or occupiable homes which requires any structure considered to be a low-moderate income dwelling lost to CDBG-funded demolition must be replaced within three (3) years, within the same jurisdiction and must be of the same size and capacity and remain a low-moderate income dwelling for ten (10) years.

Some of the possible FY-2023 projects include demolition of blighted structures, street and sidewalk improvements, replacing light poles on 13th Street, and new lighting in Bandstand Park. The second and final hearing for the FY-2023 CDBG program is planned for September 11, 2023. Pending no adverse comments after the second public comment period ends on September 22, 2023, the proposed projects will be presented for Council's approve at its October meeting. The application is due October 27, 2023.

There being no comments or questions from Council, the hearing was adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.J. Parks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

T.J. Parks,
Recording Secretary