

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 29, 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

5:15 P.M. Council Chamber, Members present: A. Christianson Sr., N. Johnson, M. Reynold. Others present: A. Christianson Jr., D. Parker.

Call to Order:

Chair Christianson Sr. called the meeting to order.

Vibrant Spaces Grant:

Adm. Christianson used the WEDC's program flyer to describe the Vibrant Spaces grant program and what it seems to be best suited to. He went on to describe why he feels applying for the maximum grant of \$50,000 to be matched with a like amount of local monies makes sense:

- *Projects for which plans are already available are favored and the application deadline is late January.
- *Projects with co-sponsors are favored and LCIDC could contribute back \$20,000 the City had previously given it to do the project, which did not happen. That would reduce City's cash need to \$30,000, maybe less, which could come from TID #8, or #12.
- *Projects there are plans on hand for are favored. There are a handful of iterations of this facility plan dating back to shortly after the 2002 tornado.
- *Projects that serve multiple uses are preferred. Such pavilion could be used for Music on Miner, Mardi Gras craft fair, targeted markets, flea markets or winter markets.
- *Projects that change use of spaces rather than add to existing destinations like parks, are favored.
- *The City and County cannot both apply of projects in Ladysmith.
- *Getting away from the railroad style roof and using a straightforward 4/12 pitch trusses will simplify the project and should bring the expected cost below \$100,000.

Adm. Christianson concluded by stating that he thinks such project "checks all the boxes" so far as meeting the stated grant program preferences. He did acknowledge that earlier versions of this project have been criticized because vendors seldom live in or pay taxes in the City. He countered that traffic generated by it could be expected to increase traffic in front of businesses that do meet those tests and that many downtown businesses have previously expressed support for it for that reason.

Motion was made by Christianson Sr. seconded by Johnson and carried by voice vote to recommend Council approval of an app seeking \$50,000 toward construction of an approximately 12' x 110' FM pavilion with extendable ends.

Sledding:

Christianson Sr. stated the only location he has seen evidence of sledding is off the steep corner of E. 4th St. S. and Adams Ave., where he said he doesn't know if two vehicles can safely pass let alone with kids congregated or parents' vehicles parked nearby. He lamented the seeming decline of this and other simple outdoor activities.

Housing Projects:

The following updates were provided relating to housing projects currently under consideration.

- *Chair Christianson advised that he had asked RVA/M&J to provide some actual cost data for projects similar in size complexity to what was estimated for conversion of the current hospital into housing.
- *Adm. Christianson stated that he has no updates on the elementary school or riverside projects.

Beautification:

Chair Christianson stated that he notices a lot of little things like the leaning library sign on Falge Park Drive just off Hwy. 27 that many wouldn't have on their private property, adding that its likely easier to get others to "spruce up" when City properties are well kept. He also stated he would like to learn costs to put screening slats like JREC has in the perimeter fence at the PW garage facility. Asst. DPW Parker noted this has been looked into before and, at that time, the cost was expected to be about \$4,000 for the slats and another \$2,000 for hired labor. Having summer workers do the installation would reduce the labor cost. Updated costs will be sought.

Barricades:

The locations of some barricades used after the recent snow storm were noted as they are laying in precarious positions on side streets.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Christianson Sr. and carried by voice vote to adjourn shortly before 6 p.m.