

December 15, 2008
6:00 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The City Council of the City of Newport met on the above date in the Council Chambers of the Newport City Hall. On roll call, Bain, Obtshka, Kilbride, Patrick, and Bertuleit were present. Henson arrived later.

Staff attending was as follows: Pro-Tem City Manager Ritzman, City Attorney Firestone, and Senior Service Director O'Callaghan.

Telephonic participation in the meeting was available, and at least two persons participated by phone.

ACTION ITEMS

Public hearing on application for a Community Development Block Grant to assist in the design and construction of improvements at the Senior Center. Bain asked O'Callaghan to speak on this issue.

O'Callaghan spoke in favor of the grant application and described the improvements to the Senior Center, which would involve expansion of the lower floor. O'Callaghan stated that some funds have already been raised. Bain asked what the source was of existing funds, and O'Callaghan responded that a group called, the Friends of the Senior Center, had raised funds, both by direct fundraising activities and by applying for and obtaining other grants.

Scott Wilson of the COG, appearing by phone, stated that the total of \$104,000 raised by other means is sufficient for the local match for the CDBG grant.

Kilbride requested information about the CDBG process and standards. Wilson described the CDBG process and sources of funding. Wilson listed the types of projects that could be funded, which are listed on the memorandum he prepared for the Council and that was included in the Council packet.

After some technical difficulties with the phone, Wilson stated that the proposed application is under the "Community/Public Facilities" category of projects that can be funded. Wilson explained that a portion of CDBG projects must provide benefits to low and moderate income persons, and that this requirement is met because seniors are assumed to be of low or moderate income.

Obtshka asked if the building design meets ADA standards. O'Callaghan responded that it did, and mentioned ramp access. Obtshka asked if the hearing needed to be open for further comments, and Firestone replied "No," and Wilson added that there was an opportunity for written comments prior to the hearing. O'Callaghan stated that no written comments had been received.

Bertuleit asked how often the opportunity for CDBG funding arises. Wilson stated that there is annual funding, and that applications are processed quarterly.

Bain opened the public hearing, inviting comments on this proposal or on other projects that might be appropriate for CDBG funding.

Jennifer Kramer commented that a child care center could benefit from CDBG funding. She reported that there is a severe lack of child care for children under the age of two years. Henson also addressed the need for additional child care facilities.

Bain asked if anyone else wanted to speak, and no one responded.

MOTION was made by Patrick, seconded by Obteshka, that the City of Newport prepare and submit an application for up to \$500,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds for the design and construction of improvements to the Newport Senior Activity Center. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

Contract for Pro-Tem City Manager. Council considered a draft contract for City Manager Pro-Tem Dale Shaddox, who had been appointed at the noon Council meeting. Patrick suggested that the remaining reference in the agreement to “interim” be changed to “pro-tem,” that Section 4. be clarified to state a maximum term of six months, and that the amount spent on housing be limited to \$1,500 monthly. Patrick asked if the indemnity provision was required, and Firestone responded that cities have a statutory obligation to indemnify employees. MOTION was made by Patrick, seconded by McConnell, to approve the contract, with the changes mentioned and to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement as amended. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

Warming center. Ritzman reported on plans for a “warming shelter” at the fairgrounds for persons needing a place to get in from the very cold weather we are experiencing. He stated that the he and the fire chief would be staffing the shelter for part of the night. Council supported the concept. Ritzman provided contact information for others who might wish to volunteer.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Gary Firestone, City Attorney

William D. Bain, Mayor