

City of Deer Park

Public Hearing

Hamilton County Block Grant

Municipal Building

Monday September 11, 2017

6:00 pm

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

President Comer opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Council members in attendance included Mr. Daily, Ms. Hedger, Mr. Lehane and Mr. Lenihan.

Hamilton County Block Grant Application

At 6PM Ms. Linda Fitzgerald opened the public hearing for the first of two public hearings to discuss the Hamilton County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Formula Program. The purpose of the public hearing is to educate residents about the CDBG program and to solicit ideas about projects that could use CDBG funding. The city can apply for funding this year for the next three years, namely 2018, 2019 and 2020. The second public hearing will be held on Monday, September 25, 2017 to discuss what projects the city will apply for prior to the November 22, 2017 deadline.

Linda gave an overview of the CDBG Program, explaining that the County receives this funding every year from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); funding is based on the budget passed by Congress each year. The amount the County receives is based on the number of local governments participating in the program and the following demographics of those communities: total number of people in the community, income levels of people in the community, age of people in the community, age and quality of housing stock; and economic stability or need of the community.

Linda stated that funding has been stable at almost \$3 million. Mayor Donnellon asked if this was \$3 million for each year and Linda responded it was \$3 million over three years. (Linda introduced Ms. Joy Pierson from Hamilton County Community Development Department who clarified that the county has \$3 million for each of the three program years. Linda explained that the county equally splits the \$3 million between community specific projects and county wide projects like the ULAP grant Deer Park received to demolish properties at the northeast corner of Blue Ash and Galbraith Rds. Linda said that there are about 38 Hamilton County communities eligible for CDBG funds. Each community requests funding that is about half of what they bring to the grant formula; Linda gave an example.

CDBG funds can only be used for projects that meet one of three HUD criteria including:

- Benefit to residents and businesses in a low to moderate income area which is 80% or less of area median income. Linda offered to share income limits with the audience.
- Benefit to low and moderate income households.
- Removal of slum, and/or blight, particularly acquisition and/or demolition of buildings that are no longer useful or have code violations and are hazardous to the community.

Linda gave a summary of projects that are eligible for CDBG funds:

- Improvements to public facilities like parks and ballfields in low to moderate income areas.
- ADA improvements to any publicly owned facilities such as parks, senior centers, city hall.
- Improvements to senior centers in any areas.
- Land and building acquisition and assembly for future projects or demolition.
- Demolition of outdated, blighted, unsafe building (both residential and commercial).
- Business district plans and improvements such as streetscape improvements, façade renovations, gateway signs, traffic calming.
- Public infrastructure that promotes development including matching funds for TID and SCIP grants.
- Improvements to public infrastructure in low to moderate income areas such as street reconstruction, curbs and sidewalks, and replacement of sewers. Linda said that the City used its past CDBG formula funds to renovate Hemphill and Dalton Sts. and is using 2017 funds for O'Leary Ave.

Funds cannot be used for:

- Improvement to private infrastructure.
- Acquisition or improvement to government owned buildings or land except if ADA improvements.
- Acquisition to cultural or sports centers, airports and hospitals.
- Maintenance or repair of facilities or infrastructure.

Public Comments – None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Joseph W. Comer
President of Council

Joan E. Perin
Clerk of Council