



City Middletown, CT
Economic Development Committee
Minutes from the Economic Development Committee Special Meeting
April 22, 2020

Meeting was conducted via video conference call

Present: V. Loffredo, T. Gennaro, , P. Pessina, E. McKeon Absent: J. Blackwell Executive: Mayor Benjamin Florsheim Staff: J. Samolis, T. Marano
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Minutes

1. Call to Order: Chairman V. Loffredo called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.
2. Minutes: E. McKeon made a motion, seconded by P. Pessina, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of 4/16/20.
Vote: Unanimous in favor of the motion.
3. Public Session:
4. Communications: There were no communications from the public.
5. Old Business: There was no old business.
6. New Business

Economic Development Recovery Plans

J. Samolis reviewed the Council Resolution requesting reprogramming of CDBG funding from prior grant years 2016 -2018 to the 2019 grant year. P. Pessina suggested putting \$40,000 from St. Vincent de Paul's to proposal for Green Street to the Middletown Behavioral Health Emergency Isolation and Quarantine Site COVID-19 Response plan slated for Wesleyan's former student housing on William Street. P. Pessina made a motion, seconded by E. McKeon, to amend the resolution to reprogram \$47,000 from CDBG to this project. Other funding sources were discussed such as getting this money from CARES ACT funding instead. P. Pessina then made a motion to amend the original motion, seconded by E. McKeon, to amend the resolution to raise the City's commitment to \$50,000.

Vote – Unanimous in favor of the motion

Council Resolution to modification the City's CDBG 5-year plan

J. Samolis reviewed the Council Resolution to modification the City's CDBG 5-year plan according to HUD's new guidance issued since the onset of the CPOVid-19 crisis. The modifications include reducing the public comment period on the plan to 5 days. Changes will be reviewed by Citizens Advisory Committee. Public notifications will be done as in the past such as advertising to the public through the Hartford Courant, for example. Will be CAC and agenda for Council Meeting. A motion was made by P. Pessina, seconded by E. McKeon, to forward the resolution to the Common council.

Vote: Unanimous in favor of the motion

COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan

J. Samolis reviewed the DRAFT Economic Recovery Plan. One proposal is to use CDBG funds to give grants to businesses which may convert to a loan if the business does not comply with HUD requirements. The committee discussed the HUD requirements. Businesses can go for other sources but for a different use. The City would award the grants on a first come, first served basis.

The other proposal is to use \$250,000 of City funds to make loans to Middletown businesses for specific purposes. The Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC) would underwrite and administer the loans for a 5% fee. Jeff Pugliese, Vice President of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, reviewed MCRC's history and capabilities. Discussion ensued on loaning to start-ups and new businesses, prioritizing existing and the approval process. Mayor Benjamin Florsheim suggested the loans be reviewed by the MCRC before final approval by the Common Council. The members and the Mayor discussed how and from which budget the funds would be appropriated. The members directed the staff to work with the Chamber to work out the details.

E. McKeon made a motion, seconded by P. Pessina, to move the Economic Development Bridge Loan Program proposal to the May Common Council meeting for further discussion.

Vote: Unanimous in favor of the motion

60 Dingwall Drive RFQ Responses

J. Samolis discussed the two RFQ responses the City received. They are from David Fox and Associates of New York City and Westport-based Vallone Ventures. The committee discussed meeting with both proposers to let them present their plans in more detail.

Vote: There was no vote taken

Adjournment

P. Pessina made a motion, seconded by E. McKeon to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Unanimous in favor of the motion

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM