

**JOINT COM DEV & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES from
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2021 [meeting began at 6:08 P.M.]**

CD PRESENT: Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Cerra, Oswald, Jessie

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Stewart, Tollett, Jessie, Davis Absent: Baird

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Brubaker, Mayor Whitfield, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Williams, Asst Dir Calvert, Community Development Dir Scott, Water Superintendent Jacob, Police Captain Hammonds

1. Approval of the NOVEMBER 8TH, 2021 JOINT Community Development / Finance Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Cerra, second by Mrs. Mitchell to approve the above meeting minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

2. The matter of Final Consideration for the PY 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan Update, Consolidated Plan Update.

Referred By: Community Development Director Scott

Dir Scott showed the excel CDBG Budget on the screen. It was presented at the second Public Hearing on Oct. 12th as well as the third Public Hearing on Oct. 25th. It's been available for Public comment for 30 days and they are requesting final consideration on this matter so it can go for final approval by full council next Monday. Ms Scott said that her office did not receive any public comments. She showed all the activities that were proposed and everyone that submitted a funding request will receive funding, with the exception of the 'Good Knights' who withdrew their funding requests and the request from The Generation House for driveway improvements was deemed ineligible.

Mr. Tollett wanted to say to Ms. Scott and her staff that they did a great job on making this budget fit exactly correct and he thanked them.

Chair Callahan thanked Dir Scott as well and asked for a motion from each committee.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Cerra moved, second by Mrs. Mitchell to authorize an ordinance for PY 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan Update, Consolidated Plan Update.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

FINANCE:

Mr. Tollett moved, second by Mrs. Davis to authorize an ordinance for PY 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan Update, Consolidated Plan Update.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of accepting property at 1504 West Avenue from the CIC as a donation to the City of Elyria to be used as a Park.

Referred By: Mayor Whitfield

The group run by Marsalis Hammons titled 'Leaders of Today' were in attendance and came up to the podium to speak.

Mayor Whitfield said Dir Brubaker will give some context to this property so the committee can understand how we acquired it and then we'll continue with the presentation.

Dir Brubaker said this property is at the corner of West Ave. and 15th Street. It used to be a nightclub, a laundromat and it sat vacant for a while. It caught fire in late 2019 to the point that City had to demolish the building and in lieu of placing a lien, the City ended up purchasing the property. It is now a clear clean space and it's right next door to the Public Library and they are using the property for the mini greenhouses. The lot could have a lot of use to it.

Mayor Whitfield said our Parks Board voted to accept this as a park property with an interest in expanding the Parks. The CIC Board had been considering it and they voted at the most recent CIC Meeting to also offer this property to the City. Mr. Hammons and his group have been doing a lot for the community and creating vision and ideas. Once this is accepted, the City will continue to work with these young folks to help create that vision and work with the Parks & Rec Department to bring it to life.

Mr. Hammons introduced himself and gave his address of 38775 Butternut Ridge Rd. He is the founder and CEO of 'Leaders of Today', which is a youth leadership development organization.

These students participated in a six-week community solutions 'think tank' program that took place at the South Elyria Library and will present their findings. These students will speak on the reasons and intent behind developing 1504 West Ave. into a 'Pocket-Park'.

First Student: Nataliegh Newhouse, a junior at EHS. She said the walkability and park access for Elyria in 2018 was at 34.7 percent compared to the City Dashboard average of 59.9 percent which means that out of the total population of Elyria in 2018, which was 53,910, approximately only 18,707 people had access to a park. The nearby community resources are the public library, community garden, small businesses and multiple large local churches.

Second Student: Geon Santiago, LCCC Early College and senior at EHS. He began by saying he has been a resident of South Elyria for six years. He sees this pocket park as an opportunity to promote the historical place making for South Elyria.

Third Student: Priscilla Yrad, EHS Senior. Her issue is maintenance equipment and funding and continuing their leverage with student volunteers while working along side of the city. They're providing public and private partnerships with leaders of today, as for funding of design 'build-it' workshops and community engagements and events with organizations, such as 'making our own source'.

Forth Student: Toviel Jackson, EHS Senior. She reported that they also found that a majority of the people wanted a play area for their children in walking distance from their homes. Along with a children's play area, they desired to have benches, a shaded pavilion and an open green space. Some potential programming the community would like to see is walking, exercising, activity players for children and the Farmer's Market.

Mr. Hammons thanked all of the students and the committee thanked them as well for a great job in presenting these findings.

Mrs. Mitchell asked Mr. Hammons to explain what a 'pocket park' is.

Mr. Hammons said it's about a half acre of land and it only serves residents or users that are in walking distance of the park.

Mr. Oswald said this idea for a park is a great idea.

Mr. Oswald asked if the property they are discussing right next to the library?

Dir Brubaker said this property abuts the library property. When the library rebuilt. Similar to what they did at the old creamery, they also have green space to the right of that, which abuts City property.

Mr. Oswald also asked about the property at West River and 16th Street, he's noticed kids hanging out there.

Mayor Whitfield said there have been no issues at that area, it's another place where there may be an opportunity for another 'pocket park'.

Mrs. Davis said that's her concern also, it's at the corner of 16th Street and West Ave., not 16th and Middle Ave. She asked if they can expand the park over to that corner?

Mr. Hammons said that the students identified that as an opportunity, not as a challenge, but looking at that as an option to consolidate and maybe extending the park or offering it as a parking area if it would work out that way.

Law Dir Deery said the parcel they are talking about now, which was formerly 1504 West Ave. is under the control of the Community Improvement Corporation and being offered to the City to be used for park purposes, where as those other parcels are not presently at the City's disposal.

Mrs. Mitchell commended Mr. Hammons and the students for doing a great job at presenting this and everyone applauded them. Her question is what is their vision for this park? Will there be playground equipment, benches, tables?

Mr. Hammons said the intent of this park is to be more of an inclusive space, a gathering space for the community, for those folks that are in walking distance. Not necessarily serving all of south Elyria. They want the development to be community led to it's fullest extent so they have a survey that's live, they have about 50 residents who had responded. The survey data fact sheet which was passed out includes the leading installments that the residents would like to see and continuing that process to make sure the community's voice is represented.

Chair Stewart said that he thinks this is a great idea and it's great getting the youths involved and he thanked everyone. It's a great opportunity which can develop into different areas as well as other vacant areas that the City can take advantage of.

Chair Callahan said this is a great vision to move forward on these community areas for the residents and thanked Mr. Hammons and the students. Mr. Callahan read the Committee Report and asked for a motion from CD.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Cerra moved, second by Mrs. Mitchell to authorize the an ordinance to accept the property at 1504 West Ave. to be used as a 'pocket-park'.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

FINANCE:

Mr. Tollett moved, second by Mrs. Davis to authorize the an ordinance to accept the property at 1504 West Ave. to be used as a 'pocket-park'.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of a TIF and an Economic Development Grant to ICP for Midway Mall.

Referred By: Mayor Whitfield

Mayor Whitfield said that because this matter is dealing with real estate, he asked if they could go into Executive Session?

Dir Deery said that she will request that we adjourn into Executive Session for the discussion regarding a potential TIF.

Secretary Rosado took a ' Roll Call' Vote so that this evening's meeting could go into Executive Session.

CD Committee:

Cerra Aye
Oswald Aye
Mitchell Aye
Jessie Aye
Callahan Aye

Finance Committee:

Stewart Aye
Jessie Aye
Davis Aye
Tollett Aye

All Ayes.

Executive Session Began at 6:28 P.M.

Secretary Rosado took a ' Roll Call' Vote to come out of Executive Session.

CD Committee:

Cerra Aye
Oswald Aye
Mitchell Aye
Jessie Aye
Callahan Aye

Finance Committee:

Stewart Aye
Jessie Aye
Davis Aye
Tollett Aye

All Ayes.

Executive Session Ended at 7:40 P.M.

Mr. Cerra moved and second by Mrs. Mitchell to adjourn this evening's Community Development portion of the Meeting at 7:41 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

[The evening's meetings continued with the Finance Committee Meeting].

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Council Clerk Secretary

(Committee Meeting attended by Secretary Rosado ~ Minutes were transcribed by Secretary Rosado