

The JOINT CD and FINANCE Committees held a meeting on **Monday, November 13th, 2023** beginning at 6:25 P.M.

CD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Oswald, Schneider, Lipian

FINANCE MEMBERS PRESENT: Acting Chair Tollett, Davis, Schneider, Cerra

Excused Absence: Stewart

Other Council Members Present: Corbin and Simmons

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Director Deery, Safety Service Dir Lundy, Mayor Whitfield, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Calvert, Engineer McKillips, Public Works Supt Conner, CD Dir Scott, Building Official Farkas, Chief Pelko, Capt. Groomes

1. Approval of the Joint Meeting Minutes from October 10th, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve the said minutes.

2. The matter of a Program Extension and Budget Increase for the Skill City Promise Program through the City and LCCC.

Referred By: Mayor Whitfield and CD Director A. Scott

Mayor Whitfield said this program was established in 2021 and the purpose of the initiative is for Elyria residents to get new skills through this partnership with LCCC. Every year this program has been approved on an annual basis.

CD Dir Scott said this program has rec'd extensions since it began. It is a last dollar funding source. Due to covid dollars it took a little longer to expend the initial \$200,000. Council did approve to extend this agreement until December of this year. The funds now have been expended to date and they are now requesting an additional \$200,000 for 2024. Cindy Kushner of LCCC is here to give a presentation on the program.

Cindy Kushner, 3540 Edgewater Dr., Vermilion. As Mayor Whitfield said, this program has been instituted for Elyrians who are pursuing high demand areas that are highly employable and needed by employers in NE Ohio and in Elyria. It is a gap funded program, which means all other funds that the student may be eligible for are applied first. It's difficult to predict how much they spend each semester because it depends on what grants that are coming in to cover those other funds first. They have expended the initial \$200,000. Ms. Kushner went over pages of her presentation. It laid out eligible 16-week programs; Health Care, Business, IT, Manufacturing and non-credit programs. The following page laid out the two semester (32 week) programs; Business and Entrepreneurship, Computer and IT, Education, Engineering and Manufacturing, Health and Wellness, Social Services and Public Safety and Science and Math. The program has served about 209 students and the average age is 28. The average award is almost \$1,100.00. The students are about 55% female and about 45% male.

Around 60 students have a 4.0 GPA and 87 students have a 3.0 GPA. There have been 84 graduates and 98 credentials have been awarded. They have served 209 and it's inspired many more than that. If those students are eligible for financial aid or scholarships, those funds go first, but 209 students have been funded with this program. She has expressed gratitude and for confidence in serving Elyrians. The fast track programs help feed those earn and learn programs where they get their first credential, that first 9 to 12 credits and then they get out working and continue their studies while they're working.

Mayor Whitfield said this initiative is about eliminating barriers and provides hope and inspiration. Opportunities are out there for Elyria residents who, if they're willing to put in the work, the City is there to support them to help them get the skills for good jobs. It's also an incentive, when they talk to businesses about doing business to have the opportunity to train folks to fit into jobs.

Mr. Tollett asked if this is administered through the financial aid department? If a student has Pell grant grants or other scholarships, are those taken first?

Ms. Kushner said it's required for the FASFA form to be filled out first so that all other aid is applied first. The programs are not eligible for financial aid, but the student is. So, if there was an amount leftover, it will pay for that gap in tuition.

Mr. Tollett said if just 80 students a year generate \$3000 a year in City tax, the program pays for itself.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

**Motion was made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mrs. Mitchell to authorize an extension and budget increase for the Skill City Program., emergency clause.
MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

FINANCE:

**Motion was made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an extension and budget increase for the Skill City Program, emergency clause.
MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

The evening's Committee Development Committee has adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

The evening's meetings continued with The Finance Committee Meeting which began at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant