

The JOINT CD and FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, JUNE 10th, 2024 beginning at 6:05 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

CD: Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Schneider, Oswald, Lipian
Finance: Chair Tollett, Davis, Schneider, Cerra, Siwierka
Utilities: Chair Mitchell, Davis, Oswald, Stewart
Absent: None

Administration and Department Heads Present: Mayor Brubaker, Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Engineer Schneider, Public Works Supt Conner, CD Manager Almobayyed,

1. Approval of the Joint Meeting Minutes from May 13th, 2024.

Mrs. Mitchell moved, seconded by Mr. Schneider to approve the above minutes.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of adoption of the Elyria Architectural Design Rendering Financial Support Program.

Referred by: Mayor Brubaker

Mayor Brubaker first wanted to thank CD Dir Ashley Scott, Mona Almobayyed and Dir Dawn Calvert for their help in putting this program together and working in conjunction with the Law Dir's Office to get the documents ready for this program.

The Mayor said they noticed there are businesses wanting to move into the downtown area into old buildings that weren't up to snuff due to the age of some of the buildings. Some requirements for a business owner to be able to move in and occupy an old building, would require them to hire commercial building architects to do multiple improvements, such as egress, ingress, fire codes which come with renovating an old building so that it can be used for a commercial business. He has seen a lot of money being spent on architectural design and plans that the business owner has to invest money in. Those expenses can scare a business owner away.

So, this program is going to be a way to help those business owners with these kinds of expenses. This will benefit the redevelopment in the downtown area so businesses can move into these older buildings and bring successful businesses to downtown. This program brings a plan that will allow the city to provide funding up to \$10,000 to those who want to move into the downtown area. There could potentially be multiple architects that would go through an RFP program and potential business owners can choose a firm from that list to help design the building to fit for their business and the City would reimburse them for up to \$10,000.

There have been some feasibility studies and other things that should be done as well. They originally wanted to focus on the downtown area, though there are a lot of vacant buildings on Cleveland Street which will allow a major corridor into the City.

Before the Mayor approached this project, he met with Finance Dir Pileski, who shared with him, that there is around \$90,000 in Economic Development funding available. Mayor Brubaker said we should start with \$50,000 which will allow up to 5 businesses. This will allow the City to work with business owners and those businesses will come to the City so that we can support them. They will also make sure those business people have funding available to put into their business so it can be successful. If the Committee see fit to approve this, they will adjust the dates on the forms and then eventually go before Council for approval.

Mr. Oswald said this is a great idea. He asked if it will include business owners who purchase homes and fix them up and then turn them into rental properties?

Mayor Brubaker said there is an eligibility document which explains who would be eligible for this. It's for commercial businesses only, it won't be eligible for someone who buys a house to rent it out, only for new business.

Mrs. Siwierka said this is a great idea and she appreciates that her suggestions were incorporated into this. She stated that it's good that business owners are able to go to their own architects but, if it's a franchise, they would go to the parent company and the architect would be who the corporate franchise uses for all of their businesses.

Mr. Schneider thanked them for incorporating Cleveland Street.

Mrs. Davis asked for clarification on the location.

Mayor Brubaker said the Cleveland Street area is from Gulf Road and to SR 57 eastbound, just the Cleveland Street corridor. This is just a start, if it works well, they could expand it to other areas of the City in the future.

Mr. Lipian said this is exciting program and in line with the Mayor's promise, to revitalize downtown and utilizing funding specifically to revamp commercial structures and reimagine them. He thanked the Mayor. He asked who the program administrators will be?

Mayor Brubaker said it will be the Administration office and the Community Development Department. They are also talking about sending it thru the Elyria Economic Development Committee, EEDC.

Chair Callahan Thanked everyone for the discussion on this topic and asked for a motion:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Motion made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Lipian to authorize an ordinance to adopt the 'said' program.

MOTION CARRIES

FINANCE:

Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance to adopt the 'said' program.

MOTION CARRIES

There was no further business for Community Development and Chair Callahan asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Lipian and second by Mr. Schneider to adjourn the Community Development Committee Meeting at 6:15 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

The evening's Committee Development Committee has adjourned.

The evening's meetings continued with Finance Committee Meeting which began at 6:18 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant