

**WEIRTON CITY COUNCIL
CDBG WORKSHOP MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016 3:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the Common Council for the CDBG Workshop of the City of Weirton, Hancock and Brooke Counties, West Virginia was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. in Room 201 of the Weirton Municipal Building.

Councilmembers in Attendance:

Tim Connell	Councilmember Ward 1	ABSENT
Charles Wright	Councilmember Ward 2	
Fred S. Marsh	Councilmember Ward 3	
George E. Ash, Sr.	Councilmember Ward 4	
Douglas L. Jackson	Councilmember Ward 5	ABSENT
Enzo Fracasso	Councilmember Ward 6	
Terry Weigel	Councilmember Ward 7	

City Officials in Attendance:

Rob Alexander	Police Chief
Travis Blosser	City Manager
Vince Gurrera	City Attorney
Thomas J. Maher, Jr.	Finance Director
A. D. Mastrantoni	Utilities Director
Rik Rekowski	Library Director
Rod Rosnick	Chief Code Official
Jerry Shumate	Fire Chief
Regina Anderson	Planning & Development Director

TOPIC:

Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 CDBG Funding Requests – Entitlement \$374,089

OBJECTIVE:

Funding to facilitate the effective management of the CDBG Program in accordance to Federal Regulations to meet the Community Development needs of the City of Weirton.

DISCUSSION:

Regina Anderson, Planning & Development Director reviewed the CDBG FY 2016 Funding Requests sheet and explained to the Council Members the different columns – Requested Amount – Recommended Amount and Amount Received FY 2015. The entitlement amount keeps on decreasing. We have made some recommendations and this meeting is to open up as to how you would like to funnel that money. The caveat of course is this federal money used to benefit low and moderate income households (LMI). Infrastructure project for example, street paving, and certain things: If it is in a census tract or a block group (which is smaller than a census tract) that is more than 51% low and moderate income households than you can do paving on that street. All our census tracts have low and moderate income households. We did get a new map this year – Ward 4 and Half Moon and there is a new area that also dropped into more than 51% LMI and that is Greenbrier - we have more concentrations of people underneath the moderate income level.

Councilman Marsh stated instead of starting with the Public Services category let us start with bricks and mortar (Infrastructure category). I will tell you personally I want as much as we can put to our bricks and mortar projects especially paving.

Councilman Ash stated that the \$11,000 that the Fire Department needs for new hoses we need to make sure that stays in there. Weirton Senior Center the sewage problem is bad so the \$10,000 for that stays. I agree with Fred the rest should be bricks and mortar.

Regina Anderson – Planning & Development Director- Ok, just quickly, the Planning and Administration category - The \$55,000 will go to general program administration.

Councilman Ash – Whose salary is that? Whose salary is it?

Travis Blosser, City Manager – The salary is broken up between the two individuals that are working on it. As we talked before, that number we left it the same as what it was, but next year we plan that number will come down. This year you will have more work being done on it because we are getting everything situated back where it should be, and then next year that number will come down.

Councilman Ash – So the general fund money should come down now since we are putting \$55,000 in it.

Travis Blosser, City Manager – It probably can once we break it down. What we will do we essentially will bill back for those funds actually used. We cannot say give us \$55,000 for the whole salary. We have to show what we are doing.

Regina Anderson – Planning & Development Director – Let us go down to bricks and mortar. Regina went through the list in infrastructure explaining the recommended amount to Council:

Weirton Area Museums & Culture Center – requested amount \$24,950 – Recommended Amount - \$0 – The reason we thought we should not recommend it is because it is not likely the low and moderate income families are not the ones using it.

Street Improvements – Recommended \$168,000 – Even last year we were unable to completely fund. They asked for \$250,000 last year.

Fire Department – It is also difficult when we have equipment that is purchased and it is suppose to stay in low and moderate income areas. You buy a new hose and it is going up to Weirton Heights it is not suppose to be bought by CDBG. I think the idea was that General Fund could cover that kind of thing. It would be better to have that general fund otherwise, we would have to have some kind of verification either it stays in Ward 4 which they could do. Then they do not have much flexibility with that piece of equipment.

Councilman Marsh – On the street improvements the \$168,000 does it include the \$45,000?

Regina Anderson – Planning & Development Director – Yes it does.

Councilman Ash – I would like to know the General Fund is it \$805,000 divided by 6 Wards.

Travis Blosser, City Manager - Yes

Councilman Marsh – That leaves \$35,000 to pave. I want to go to \$300,000 on the street improvements.

Travis Blosser, City Manager – You would have to remove the recommended amounts from the other areas and shift it all to street paving.

Councilman Ash – The only objection I have to that is I want the foot patrol. The Police Department fights for that every year. The second is that the \$11,000 for the Fire Department. We need new hoses and they do not pass any of the tests. The sewage system down at the Weirton Senior Center is terrible. We need \$10,000 for that.

Regina Anderson – Planning & Development Director – The funding amounts are up to Council to decide.

Councilman Fracasso – Questioned the \$12,000 to provide facility passes to the Millsop Community Center and Starvaggi pool?

Councilman Weigel – It is for the passes and paperwork.

Councilman Fracasso – Stated that he could not see charging the residents that fit the category for low to moderate income and just letting those residents come to Millsop Community Center and Starvaggi pool. The utilities and electric would be on anyway.

Councilman Ash – It is subsidizing the cost of the passes the \$12,000.

Travis Blosser – City Manager – Stated that adjustments need to be taken out of other categories to keep the total of Entitlement \$374,089.

Regina Anderson – Development Planning Director – There are unexpended funds and they are trying to expend the complete funds. She will be going through to see what is left in the other funds. Those that need to be expended, we will work on it. Those that need to be reprogramed we will come back to Council and say here is the pot of money that isn't getting spent what do you think we should do with it?

Councilman Ash – If it is more than two years they do not need the money.

Regina Anderson – Planning & Development Director – Yes and we will come back to Council with that.

Council members discussed the disbursements of the different streets and the cost associated with paving.

Councilman Fracasso – Stated he would like to see some monies go to A Child's Place CASA and the Comfort House for abused children.

Councilman Ash – Council has given them something and every year we tell them it may not be there next year.

Councilmen agreed to give A child's Place CASA \$3,700 and Comfort House \$6,000. Also, take the \$11,000 from the City of Weirton Fire Department for the fire hoses and add to paving and mortar. Then give \$2,300 for the playgrounds to maintain the safety play surface.

Regina Anderson – Planning & Development Director - Stated adjustments will be made to the spreadsheet per your recommendations which will be sent out to the Council Members for review prior to the Council Meeting on April 11, 2016 to be approved.

Meeting Ended

CDBG FY 2016 Funding Requests
Entitlement amount: \$374,089

Funding Request	Description	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount	Amount Received FY 2015
Planning and Administration				
	(Subject to 20% Cap = \$74,817.80)			
General Program Administration	Funding to facilitate the effective management of the CDBG program in accordance to federal regulations to meet the community development needs of the City of Weirton	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
	Total	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
PUBLIC SERVICES	(subject to 15% cap = 56,113.35)			
A Child's Placa CASA	Funding to support operating expenses for the care and advocacy of abused/negelected Weirton children as they enter the court system (rent and utilities) Requesting CDBG to cover 6% of overall program budget	\$7,409	\$3,700	\$7,000
Comfort House	Funding for one year of operational expenses for services provided to abused children of the community. Services include forensic interviews, mental health support, coordinated medical services, and coordination with local law enforcement. Requesting CDBG to cover 9% of overall program budget	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$10,000
Community Bread Basket	Funding for the purchase of immediate need resources to provide clients with food assistance. Requesting CDBG to cover .07% of overall program budget	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
Dunbar Recreation Center	Funding for operating expenses to provide services to assist children to developing into useful and productive citizens through the reception of quality educational and recreational activities. Requesting CDBG to cover 47.7% of overall program budget	\$9,000	\$0	\$3,000

Increased Police Patrol	Funding to provided increased police protection in the form of foot patrols, bike patrols, and vehicle patrols in low to moderate area Requesting CDBG to cover 3% of overall program budget of the City of Weirton.	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$20,000
Recreational Facility Passes	Funding to provide facility passes to the millsop Community Center and Starvaggi Pool for Low to Moderate income residents. Requesting CDBG to cover 100% of overall program budget	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
Transportation - Weirton Christian Center	Funding for liability insurance on a van that will transport children to and from the center. Supportive and educational services include pre-school, and afterschool programs for the neighborhood families in the surrounding area are provided. Requesting CDBG to cover 67% of overall program budget.	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Weirton Christian Center	Funding for utility expenses to Eyvenis's House of Hope. This provides safe enviroment for suprivised visitations, counseling, and parenting classes for the surrounding area. Requesting CDBG to cover 14% of overall program budget. Requesting CDBG to cover 30% of overall program budget	\$4,800	\$0	\$0
Weirton Senior Center	Funding for the ongoing operations of the center which provides programs for socialization, recreation, education, and nutrition for the Weirton area elderly population.	\$10,000	\$0	\$3,000
Total		\$84,209	\$26,700	\$57,000

INFRASTRUCTURE

<p>ADA Restrooms - Weirton Area Museum And Culture Center</p>	<p>Funding for renovations of existing restrooms to bring them into ADA compliance.</p>	<p>\$24,950</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>\$0</p>
<p>CDBG-Eligible Street Improvements - Public Works</p>	<p>Funding for the milling and paving of streets and other associated costs in low-mod income areas. Requesting CDBG to cover 30% of overall program budget</p>	<p>\$250,000</p>	<p>\$200,089</p>	<p>\$188,598</p>
<p>City of Weirton Fire Department</p>	<p>Funding for a "5 Supply Line that will replace an old hose that has failed the annual testing. Requesting CDBG to cover 100% of overall program budget</p>	<p>\$11,145</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>\$0</p>
<p>Play Ground Improvements - Weirton Board of Parks</p>	<p>Funding to provide safety play surface materials for playground in low to moderate income neighborhood playgrounds. Requesting CDBG to cover 100% of overall program budget</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>	<p>\$2,300</p>	<p>\$0</p>
<p>Weirton Senior Center</p>	<p>Funding for sewer system improvements of the center which provides programs for socialization, recreation, education, and nutrition for the Weirton area elderly population.</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>\$0</p>
<p>Total</p>		<p>\$301,095</p>	<p>\$212,389</p>	<p>\$188,598</p>

SLUM and Blight

Code Enforcement- Inspections Department	Funding to address environmental, property maintenance, and demolition of structures in low or moderate income areas. Inspections are complaint driven and systematic. Requesting CDBG to cover 25% of overall program budget	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Demolition - Inspections Department	Funding to raze dilapidated structures through enforcement of the building code.Requesting CDBG to cover 27.2% of overall program budget	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
Total		\$80,000	\$80,000	\$110,000
Grand Total		\$374,089		