

Council met in a **PUBLIC HEARING** on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 7:52 at the Active Adult Center with President Megyes presiding. Members present: Angeloff, Coburn, Debevec, Frey, Greer, Griffin, Heitic and Jaber. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the FY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget.

Mr. Hunt of the Planning Department stated Council should have received a legal notice detailing the Community Development Block Grant for FY 2020. He said Barberton is an entitlement community through HUD and that stipulates certain things. He said they work directly with HUD rather than through the State of Ohio and they receive an annual programming budget. He said in terms of 2020 it is \$657,628. He stated they are required through HUD to hold three public meetings and this is the third of those public meetings. He said they hosted a public meeting last Tuesday at the Design Review Meeting and a second public meeting at the Planning Commission Meeting last Wednesday. He said this was all advertised in the Barberton Herald including tonight's meeting as well. Mr. Hunt stated HUD requires certain things and puts caps on how they can spend the money and detailed before Council is the report of what they anticipate for FY 2020. He said this is year one of a five-year consolidated plan and each year they have to go through and do that. He stated there are four goals that they look towards in terms of directing the money which is detailed in the report.

Mr. Hunt said this money is allowed for Economic Development, Demolition, Home Improvement, Building Rehabs, Facade Improvements for Downtown Businesses and Planning Studies. He said he will walk Council through each of the proposed budget items for 2020:

Administration of CDBG Program – this is how they fund a lot of the staff for the Planning Department - \$131,525.00 is the allocated dollar amount for 2020 which has a cap and 20% can be put towards administration, so that number cannot exceed the 20% threshold.

Public Service Programs Budget – this entails a variety of items – Fair Housing, Victim Assistance Program, Mobile Meals, Financial Empowerment Center, 211/InfoLine, Homeless Outreach and Counseling and the Minority Capital Improvement Program. He said regarding the Homeless Outreach and Counseling Program, it was brought to their attention there was concern about the homeless population in Barberton so this is a new line item in this year's budget – and it totals roughly \$58,000.00.

Housing Rehab Budget is made up of three components and it totals \$43,000.00 – \$3,000.00 goes to Lead Abatement, \$10,000.00 to the Hot Water Tank Program which is a matching grant program and \$30,000.00 goes to Owner Occupied Rehabilitation – and this is largely the benefit of low to moderate income households.

Capital Infrastructure Improvement Budget - \$126,264.91 - \$86,264.91 goes to the sidewalk replacement program and that money is up from last year.

Demos Budget is \$80,000.00.

Economic Development Budget is \$69,803.00 - \$46,803.00 is the regular budget and \$23,000.00 is the Façade Improvements for the downtown.

Code Enforcement Budget is \$149,000.00.

Total Budget is \$657,628.00.

Mr. Hunt stated the program income anticipated through the revolving loan funds are \$20,000.00 - \$10,000.00 to BCDC and another \$10,000.00 to NDS. He said they have a carry-over amount from previous years, not just from last year but from all the years for an amount of \$134,169.84.

Mr. Greer stated he is happy to see they are addressing the homeless situation. He asked what are the plans to address homelessness and 211. Ms. McFadden stated with the Homeless Outreach Program, they have people that will go out to the homeless camps and talk one on one with them to try to get to the root of what their issues are because if you just house someone who is homeless, they will be back on the street. She said you really need to get to the root of what the issue is, drug related, mental, stability and this program will offer them counseling. She said this program will also offer them a way to get into the system and apply for food stamps or social services, or things of that nature and this is really a way to elevate them and try to eventually get them back into permanent housing. She said as far as 211, it is also Continue with Care which is lumped into that program. She said Continue with Care is an organization made up of several non-profits and homeless shelters and the City of Barberton sits on that committee. She said every month they discuss the best outreach for those homeless people and how the homeless shelters are addressing those issues. She stated Mobile Meals does not go to the homeless camps but the Salvation Army gets a lot of homeless people who come on a regular basis. She said that is the plan in place for right now. Mr. Greer asked if the funding of \$10,000 for Mobile Meals, is that just a donation? Ms. McFadden stated Mobile Meals is an organization that serves individuals of low to moderate income, a lot of elderly households and gives them warm meals on a daily basis. Mr. Greer asked, the homeless, is that a service the City of Barberton is providing because when you say "they" is that another organization. Ms. McFadden stated yes, it is an organization that we contract with.

Mrs. Debevec asked regarding the Homeless Outreach Counseling, do we have someone to provide this at this point? Ms. McFadden stated they do not have a contract signed yet and they are in the process of getting this all taken care of. She said there is an organization that sits on the Board of Continuing Care and they do come to Barberton but in order to expand their outreach they need more funding to do so and they feel extra funding will be helpful to this community. Mrs. Debevec stated she is not familiar with the Financial Empowerment Center and asked for an explanation. Ms. McFadden stated it is part of United Way and currently they have two satellite locations, one is Salvation Army and the other is YMCA. She said they tail with clients who need education with budgeting or buying their first home. She said it is a way to help them become financially successful. Mrs. Debevec asked about the Minority Contractors Capital Assessment Program. Ms. McFadden stated that is a brand-new program and they are working with Summit County on this and it is a program that assists the underserved population and it helps gives them all the tools to become successful entrepreneurs – like a computer and mentoring from another successful business. She said it is geared towards contractors to help build a business. Mrs. Debevec asked what the \$86,264.91 is for on the Capital Infrastructure

Improvement Budget. Ms. McFadden it is not allocated yet. She said they plan to make improvements to the city parking lot. Mrs. Debevec asked who is going to allocate the Façade Improvement Program because it used to be through the BCDC. Ms. McFadden stated the City of Barberton administers that. She said they have for the last few years and they do not have a lot of them. Mrs. Debevec asked if the 2020 allocation is the same amount from last year. Mr. Hunt stated it is up about \$20,000 so this is a slight increase. Mrs. Debevec asked about the \$134,000 carryover. She said she knows there is a time limit factor so when would this money have to be used by. Ms. McFadden stated because of COVID, everything is up in the air. She said typically they would have until the end of November but there will be extensions.

Mr. Jaber asked Mr. Hunt if there is any way to look at the sidewalks between 8th and Tuscarawas. Mr. Hunt said this is certainly something they could study. Mr. Jaber stated Ward 3 is bad also by George Street and Frank Street. Mr. Hunt stated they will take a look at these.

President Megyes asked if any Council Members or Members of the Administration have any questions.

President Megyes asked three times if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

President Megyes said hearing no questions or comments, the public hearing is closed at 8:10.

Craig Megyes
President of Council

Renee Fox
Clerk of Council