

Council met in a **PUBLIC HEARING** on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 6:04 P.M. in Council Chambers with President Greer presiding.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 CDBG Annual Action Plan and Budget.

The Clerk called the roll: Members present: President Greer, Mr. Heitic, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Jaber, Mrs. Coburn, Mrs. Frey. Absent: Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Angeloff.

Mr. Hunt took the floor. Based on public input received during the public notice period (June 13, 2022 to July 14, 2022), the proposed budget could be revised, before being presented to the Planning Commission for a recommendation to present it to City Council.

Additionally, a request for legislation approving the FY 2022 CDBG Annual Action Plan Budget will be presented to the Rules Committee to go before Council's Committee of the Whole on July 18, 2022 and to be voted on Monday, July 25, 2022. I am requesting Emergency wording to comply with Federal Timeliness.

This plan has gone before the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission at their meetings last week. We are required by The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to hold two public meetings; we are hosting three.

HUD has announced the FY 2022 CDBG allocations and the City of Barberton's anticipated allocation for 2022 is \$678,194.00 plus \$20,000.00 in program funds. This year (2022) the Annual Action Plan is the 3rd year of the 5-year Consolidated Plan.

The proposed 2022 plan budget is as follows:

Administration of CDBG Program 2022, 20% Administration Cap. \$135,638.80. This is an increase of approximately \$8000.00 from last year. There is a cap on this, only 20% of allocated funds may be used for Administration.

The Administration and Code Enforcement account for most of the budget and increase. Code Enforcement is at \$170,000.00. this is up \$10,000.00 from last year. The City of Barberton will partially fund the Building Department to provide inspections and take necessary actions for property maintenance in LMI areas to eliminate slum and blight. We are funding additional inspectors, we had three and we now have 5 inspectors out in the field.

Public Service, we are proposing \$62,000.00 this year which is \$4,000.00 less than last year. The City of Barberton will fund public service activities what meet an eligible activity and national objective. Funding for public service activities cannot exceed 15% of the annual allocation.

In terms of Housing Rehabilitation, this year we are proposing \$55,000.00. Last year's allocation was at \$73,000.00. The City of Barberton will fund activities to provide owner occupied rehabilitation, lead abatement services and home weatherization assistance for LMI residents.

In terms of Economic Development, we have allocated \$110,000.00. This is to assist eligible businesses within the City of Barberton with economic development and façade loans. This, you will see is a substantial increase as last year was \$78,000.00. The reason for this increase is that we did a "Downtown Blitz" last week. We then held a meeting and about 40 business owners who were cited attended and we would like to offer assistance to those downtown property owners who were affected.

For Capital Infrastructure Improvements we are allocating \$87,810.00. Last year we allocated \$116,000.00. This is largely to improve the infrastructure such as sidewalks in LMI areas. We realize we are decreasing this because we have shifted funds to the Economic Development section.

In Acquisitions and Demolitions, we are allocating \$57,745.20 for the acquisition of real property and demolition of condemned structures in LMI areas. Last year \$41,000.00 was allocated.

Overall, this totals the \$678,194.00 which is the total budget.

At this point Mr. Hunt opened the floor for questions. Mr. Griffin inquired as to why the drop in funds allocated to Housing Rehabilitation. Mr. Hunt explained that we work with NES and that the funds allocated to that area in previous years were not all used and are still available. Past years funds are put into an account.

Mrs. Frey inquired about the Acquisition and Demolition allocation. Mr. Hunt explained that there are 18 houses in line to be demolished and about 11 other houses are not yet in the condemned status but are in line. We have 10 of the 18 houses that are eligible for State of Ohio funds for demolition.

Mr. Heitic asked if there was any discussion of the proposals, he had made regarding the reallocation of funds to allow more blighted houses to be demolished. Mr. Hunt stated that his proposal will go down as a public comment which will be taken to Planning Commission after all meetings are held. Mr. Hunt also offered to schedule a private meeting with Mr. Heitic to discuss this further. Mr. Hunt explained that they are waiting for a response to the State of Ohio to see if they will be demolishing the 10 houses currently on the list. If they do not, there could possibly be a reallocation of funds. Mr. Heitic stated he would wait but that he would like to see as many houses taken down as possible.

Mrs. Frey asked if there are still funds allocated to care for the homeless. Mr. Hunt stated yes, that there are funds still currently available to offer assistance to the homeless, Continuum of Care receives \$15,000.00 a year. There is a limit to the services that can be offered but we are mindful of the homeless population. The Mayor is looking into different ways we can address this population in our community.

MR. Hunt, in closing invited anyone to contact him with any further questions and that he would be happy to meet with members to answer any and all questions.

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

President Greer, hearing no further questions or comments, adjourned the public hearing at 6:16 P.M.

Justin Greer
President of Council

Laura Ries-Price
Clerk of Council