

A work session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 5:36 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 2016, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Buhrow. Present: Stefl, Hamann, Miller and Kiewiet. Absent: Ammerman.

Stefl moved and Miller seconded the approval of the meeting agenda as written. Motion carried four ayes.

Mayor Buhrow opened the first discussion about the request for the City to participate in a community development block grant and to fund a cash match for this grant. Stefl mentioned that he realizes that a stronger application requires a full 25% cash match, however, he felt they needed to think about that large sum of money. Hamann asked if anyone knew of any projects in the near future that could potentially hurt the financial stability of city. No responses given. Clerk Sawyer pointed out the information received from Speer Financial regarding the different options that could be used through tax increment financing to assist with financing the cash match. Jim Thompson, Main Street Iowa, was present and explained how several other Main Street communities have used TIF financing as well. Thompson expressed that our city has several options to choose from that most cities do not have. Sawyer presented to the Council four letters of support for the CDBG grant from current building owners willing to participate. Kiewiet commented that the City needs to support the building/business owners which could have a huge positive impact on the community. No action was taken at this time.

Mayor Buhrow opened the next discussion about the Business Innovations Grant program on the qualifications and criteria. The BIG Committee received a request from Main Street Grundy Center for support for the Main Street Grundy Center Challenge Grant applicant. The Challenge Grant is a very competitive grant for \$75,000 where the applicant also has an equal match. The application is much stronger as well with City support. The BIG Committee has agreed and recommended to the Council that \$5,000 be awarded to this applicant if they receive the Challenge Grant from Main Street Iowa. Buhrow continued to explain that the BIG Committee would like to offer the applicant the opportunity to apply for further BIG grants on this property. Kiewiet mentioned he felt an award cap or limit should be placed based on the assessed value of the building. Hamann also mentioned that the BIG Committee has agreed to add a timeframe to the application, the applications need to be submitted 30 days after the work has been completed. No action was taken at this time.

A discussion was also had regarding Chapter 141 – Driveway Regulations and Chapter Chapter 136 – Sidewalk Regulations. Dan Bangasser, Public Works Director, expressed the concern that the driveway permit application shows the specifications as to how a driveway is to be formed and concrete poured, however there are a few residents that are not wanting to follow these specifications. Kiewiet mentioned he would much rather find a solution to the sidewalk issues before looking at the driveway code of ordinances. No further action was taken at this time.

Stefl moved and Kiewiet seconded adjournment of the work session at 6:28pm. Motion carried four ayes.

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Brian Buhrow, Mayor

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Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk