

FEBRUARY 15, 2012
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268
PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2012 CDBG PROGRAM

Council President Jason Stains called the public hearing of the Waynesboro Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following in attendance:

Borough Council Members – Benjamin Greenawalt, Craig Newcomer, Darrel Potts, Jason Stains, Wayne Driscoll and Michael Cermak

Mayor Richard Starliper

Borough Staff – Lloyd R. Hamberger, II, Borough Manager
Denny Benshoff, Maintenance Superintendent
Kevin Grubbs, Head of Engineering Services
Jason Cohen, Assistant Borough Manager
Mark King, Police Chief
Dave Martin, Fire Chief
Dan Sheffler, Zoning-Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. Stains explained that the purpose of the hearing was to provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on the community development and housing needs of the Borough that may be addressed through the use of Community Development Block Grant funds, the prior use of such funds and a modification of prior year funds.

The Borough expects to receive a State Community Development Block Grant in FY 2012 in the amount of approximately \$131,500. Community Development Block Grant funds may be used for a variety of activities including, but not limited to: acquisition, demolition, historic preservation, housing rehabilitation, public improvements and economic development. Funds must principally benefit low and moderate income persons. A handout is available that identifies the activities and low-mod income figures.

Mr. Stains noted that comments would also be taken on a proposed program modification for FY 2008 which increases funds for street improvements and cuts the administrative line item. Streets have been identified for FY 2008-2011 as follows:

- Dickinson Avenue - Roadside Avenue to Mt. Airy Avenue
- Mt. Airy Avenue - N. Broad Street to N. Church Street
- W. North Street - N. Potomac Street to N. Grant Street

Following the hearing, Council will decide on projects and a budget will be advertised for the April meeting and second public hearing.

Patrick Fleagle, Director of Economic Development of Mainstreet Waynesboro, Inc. - Mr. Fleagle presented a request that \$30,000 of CDBG funds be allotted to the category of Facade Improvements in the Downtown Business District. These monies were recently withdrawn from the mix of allotments due to inactivity of the specific fund, and were re-allocated. He has recently had several inquiries concerning availability of facade funding which far exceeds the \$5,000 maximum grant that Mainstreet offers in its program. MSI would be in agreement to releasing such funds if there are no takers for this program in the respective allotment year to use in another area of need. Mr. Fleagle commented that

an investment in the infrastructure helps not only attract businesses and build the commercial viability of our downtown, but perhaps even more importantly increases the tax base on commercial property thus lessening the burden on residential properties.

Karen Parish, Mullin and Lonergan Associates (CDBG consultants) - Ms. Parish explained that this year's grant is significantly less than funding received in past years, due to a reduction in the budget by Congress and a population redistribution. She is hoping to have final numbers in the near future. The handouts mentioned by President Stains were not available, but Ms. Parish offered to email them or make hard copies available at Borough Hall the following morning.

She noted that there is facade money still available in the 2009 program, but explained the State is insisting that funds be committed to a project within two (2) years. It is very important that the Borough adhere to this timeframe; and, thus, it is their intention to move the facade money into the streets program (of course, it could be re-established if there were an immediate need). Council also made a previous commitment to a housing project in the amount of \$50,000; and they are hoping to hear from PHFA in the near future.

Ms. Parish noted that she will research the matter to determine if there are still funds available in a previous program for facade improvements. She also added that there will be a fair amount of funds for streets from the 2011 program that will be "barely touched", which could also be utilized for facade improvements. Prevailing wage rates were also discussed with regard to street contracts.

It was noted that the second required hearing will be scheduled for April.

Hearing no further comments, the hearing was closed at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda S. Knott
Administrative Assistant