



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 08, 2011

Council Session

Item E3

**Public Hearing #2 Concerning Status of Community Revitalization
Grants, 08-CR-002, 09-CR-102 and 09-CR-002**

Staff Contact: Barbara Quandt

Council Agenda Memo

From: Barbara Quandt, Community Development

Council Meeting: February 8, 2011

Subject: Public Hearing #2 concerning status of Community Revitalization Grants, 08-CR-002, 09-CR-102 and 09-CR-002

Item #'s: E-3

Presenter(s): Barbara Quandt, Community Development Administrator

Background

In 2008, 2009 and 2010, the Community Development Division of the City of Grand Island received three Community Revitalization grants from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for housing and infrastructure projects in qualifying low-to-moderate income block groups in the city.

The awards were as follows:

- 1) \$254,230 for 08-CR-002 (\$236,434 project funds, \$17,796 administration) to complete a four block water main replacement project and four homeowner rehabilitation projects,
- 2) \$257,794 for 09-CR-102 (\$239,748 project funds, \$18,045 administration) to replace five blocks of water main and complete one homeowner rehabilitation project,
- 3) \$12,840 for a 2009-2012 Community Needs Assessment (09-CR-002) of 14 low-to-moderate income block groups in the city (\$8,055 administration).

General administration from all 3 grants totaled \$43,897 and was applied to Community Development staff salaries in lieu of general funds.

The Department of Economic Development requires the City to hold two public hearings to solicit public comment and update the public on the status of these grants. This public hearing fulfills this requirement for each of these three grants.

Discussion

The 08-CR-002 grant enabled the City to do two projects. The first project was to replace 4 blocks of 100-year old 4" water mains with 8" water mains along First St. from Pine St. to Plum St. expanding water capacity and improving fire suppression. The total project cost was \$163,185. The grant paid 74% of the project, leaving the City with only 26% in matching funds.

Two single-family homes are in the process of being rehabilitated. Two other home rehabilitation projects have been completed. One family received first-time homebuyer down payment assistance with minor rehab to purchase a home. This project received one contract extension and is projected to close out by March 31, 2011. General Administration of \$17,796 was awarded to assist with the cost of administering this grant.

The 09-CR-002 grant enabled the City to complete a community revitalization needs assessment of 14 low-to-moderate income block groups in the city limits for housing, infrastructure and neighborhood needs. Data collected was used to create a 3-year action plan for a 2009-2012 Community Revitalization project area. Two block groups of greatest need (Block Groups 11 and 12) were combined as the 2009-2012 selected project area. Based on the Needs Assessment, the Department of Economic Development awarded funding for Year 1 (09-CR-102) of the action plan. This planning project has been completed and the grant closed out.

The 09-CR-102 grant enabled the City to replace five blocks of 4" cast iron water main with 8" of ductile iron water main pipes in West 6th St. from Elm to Pine Streets and replace 7 Ludlow fire hydrants dating back to 1890. Rehabilitation is nearing completion on one single-family home using Program Income Reuse funds. This grant will close out on March 1, 2011. The total project cost was \$293,902. The grant paid 79% of the project, leaving the City with only 21% in matching funds.

Notice of the public hearing was given January 31, 2011 in the Grand Island Independent and public comment is solicited at this time regarding progress of the three above described Community Revitalization Grants.

ALTERNATIVES

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. No action is required on the issue

Recommendation

No recommendation required.

Sample Motion

Motion not required.

