City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, July 21, 2014 Regular Meeting

Item Pub. Hear.4

PUBLIC HEARING

Minutes: Council to conduct a Public Hearing as scheduled for this date to consider the Redevelopment Plan for Block Two, Reganis Subdivision, City of Scottsbluff, NE.

Staff Contact: Rick Kuckkahn, City Manager

CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES at WINTERS CREEK DRIVE

I. INTRODUCTION.

The City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, recognizes that blight is a threat to the continued stability and vitality of the City as a focal point of business, financial, social, cultural and civic activity of the region, and a focus of community pride and achievement. Therefore, the City has initiated a program of revitalization whose goal is to enhance the City of Scottsbluff as the center of government in the county-wide region; as the center of retail, business, industry, office, financial and entertainment activities, and of communication for the community, and as a center of tourism and meetings for the region. To reach this goal of the City of Scottsbluff has recently declared blighted and substandard the Highway 26/East 27th Street Corridor in the City. This area constitutes a critical portion of the community located on a major thoroughfare. The City recently approved the Highway 26/East 27th Street Corridor Redevelopment Plan providing for significant infrastructure improvement for the Winters Creek drainage. It also provided for significant investment by Reganis, L.L.C., resulting in the construction of a new automobile dealership. This plan seeks to further enhance the Highway 26/East 27th Street corridor by assisting in the site acquisition and site preparation for the development of an premium 85 room Fairfield Inn & Suites Hotel. The level of investment to finance the needed site acquisition and site preparation and related infrastructure will require the combined efforts of the public and private sectors.

This Redevelopment Plan covers an area consisting of approximately 147,232 square feet located east of and adjacent to U.S. Highway 26 which is legally described as Block 2 Reganis Subdivision to the City of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska and shown on Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference ("Community Redevelopment Area"). The Community Redevelopment Area was declared blighted and substandard by the Scottsbluff City Council on August 20, 2013. The Community Redevelopment Area has been determined, through the blight and substandard resolution, to be in need of revitalization and strengthening to ensure that it will contribute to the economic and social well-being of the City. All available evidence suggests that the area has not had the private investment necessary to contribute to the well-being of the community, nor would the area be reasonably anticipated to be developed without public action.

To encourage private investment in the Community Redevelopment Area, this Redevelopment Plan has been prepared to set forth the Fairfield Inn & Suites at Winters Creek Drive Redevelopment Project ("Redevelopment Project"), which is considered to be of the highest priority in accomplishing the goal of revitalizing and strengthening the Community Redevelopment Area.

II. EXISTING SITUATION.

This section of the Redevelopment Plan examines the existing conditions within the designated Community Redevelopment Area. This section is divided into the following subsections: existing land use, existing zoning, existing public improvements, and existing building condition/blighting influences.

- A. <u>Existing Land Use</u>. The Community Redevelopment Area contains a platted block of undeveloped land consisting of approximately 147,232 square feet. This use is shown on Exhibit "B".
- B. <u>Existing Zoning</u>. The Community Redevelopment Area is zoned C-2. The intent of the Neighborhood Commercial District is to provide a zone consisting of retail stores and service establishments. The C-2 District includes a wide range of retail and service uses generally helpful to the traveling public and found along arterial roadways in the community. Some of the permitted uses include hotels/motels, banks, hospitals/clinics, restaurants/bars/taverns, and convenience stores.

C. <u>Existing Public Improvements</u>.

- 1. <u>Street System.</u> The Redevelopment Area is accessed from Highway 26 by Winters Creek Drive. There is no internal street network or system constructed within the Community Redevelopment Area.
- 2. <u>Utilities.</u> The existing public utilities are available adjacent to the Redevelopment Area.
- Existing Building Conditions/Blighting Influences. Charles K. Bunger, Attorney D. at Law, conducted a study entitled "Study of Blight and Substandard Conditions" dated July 7, 2013 ("Blight Study"). The "study area" for the Blight Study, which includes the Community Redevelopment Area, as well as additional property. The evaluation and subsequent findings of the Blight Study were based upon the criteria outlined in the Nebraska Community Development Law (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 18-2101 et seq.). The Blight Study determined that the study area exhibited a number of deficiencies applicable to the consideration of a "substandard and blight" designation including the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire or other causes, improper subdivision and dilapidation/deterioration. In addition, the Blight Study identified the existence of one condition within the study area that is a determinant of blight – the area substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the community and the average age of structures in the area is greater than 40 years. The City Council declared the Community Redevelopment Area blighted and substandard and eligible for a Redevelopment Project on August 20, 2013, by resolution of the Scottsbluff City Council, after a public hearing with notice pursuant to the Community Development Law. The Blight Study is incorporated herein by this reference. A copy of the Blight Study is available at the City of Scottsbluff Clerk's Office.

III. FUTURE SITUATION.

This section of the Redevelopment Plan examines the future conditions within the Community Redevelopment Area. This section is divided into the following subsections:

- A. Proposed Land Use Plan
- B. Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan; Conformance with the Community Development Law Declarations
- C. Relationship to Local Objectives
- D. Building Requirements and Standards after Redevelopment
- E. Proposed Changes and Actions
- F. Cost-Benefit Analysis
- G. Proposed Cost and Financing
- H. Procedure for Changes in the Approved Redevelopment Plan
- A. <u>Proposed Land Use Plan</u>. No changes are contemplated in the current Land Use Plan for the area. However, the use of this site will go from undeveloped to developed. This plan contemplates site acquisition and site development resulting in the construction of a premium 85 room hotel with upscale amenities. The proposed site plan for the area after completion of a Redevelopment Project is shown on attached Exhibit "C" which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. The land use plan shows a proposed Redevelopment Project for the three story hotel consisting of approximately 15,892 square feet (ground floor) and 15,677 square feet for each upper story. A significant portion of the site will be paved parking lot with landscaping. The specific site plan, land uses, open space, buildings, parking lots, are shown on Exhibit "C".

The City of Scottsbluff will negotiate a specific redevelopment agreement with the redeveloper outlining the proposed Redevelopment Project, and contributions are necessary from the City of Scottsbluff. The written redevelopment agreement will include a site plan, Redevelopment Project description, specific funding arrangements, and specific covenants and responsibilities of the City and the redeveloper to implement the Redevelopment Project.

B. <u>Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan; Conformance with the Community Development Law Declarations</u>. In accordance with Nebraska State Law, the Redevelopment Plan described in this document has been designed to conform to the City of Scottsbluff Comprehensive Plan 2004 ("Comp Plan"). The City Council finds that this redevelopment plan is feasible and in conformity with the general plan for the development of the City as a whole and the plan is in conformity with the legislative declarations and determinations set forth in the Community Development Law.

- C. <u>Relationship to Local Objectives</u>. The Redevelopment Plan has been developed on the basis of the goals, policies and actions adopted by the City for the community as a whole and for the Redevelopment Area. General goals, policies and actions relating to the community as a whole and for Redevelopment Area are contained in the Comp Plan.
- D. <u>Building Requirements and Redevelopment Standards</u>. The redevelopment of the Community Redevelopment Area should generally achieve the following requirements and standards:
 - 1. <u>Population Density</u>. There are no dwelling units currently located within the Community Redevelopment Area. The development proposed under this Redevelopment Plan does not include any residential construction. Consequently, there will be no change proposed for the permanent population density within the Community Redevelopment Area. Transient population for the area will increase upon the opening of the hotel.

Redevelopment of the Community Redevelopment Area with the development of an upscale hotel should incent further development within the Redevelopment Area. Often an investment and improvement of the magnitude proposed by this Plan has the benefit of spurring improvements in adjacent developed and undeveloped commercial areas.

- 2. <u>Land Coverage and Building Density</u>. There are no existing buildings located within the Community Redevelopment Area. After redevelopment project completion, building coverage will be approximately 15,982 square feet on the ground floor. Paved parking lots are shown on <u>Exhibit "C"</u>.
- 3. <u>General Environment</u>. The hotel and parking lot will not cover all of Block 2 Reganis Subdivision. The additional land, not utilized for hotel premises in Block 2, is reserved for additional and compatible commercial development. This commercial activity will intensify and strengthen Scottsbluff as a focal point for local and regional retail sales and development.

The Plan will provide for the establishment of a vibrant nationally recognized upscale hotel. Exhibit D provides a view of the structure that would be constructed pursuant to this Plan. This activity is intended to have a significant positive visual and economic impact in the Redevelopment Area.

The Plan provides an environment that minimizes automobile-pedestrian conflicts, assures that lighting, signs, pedestrian ways, and communication devices are oriented to the human scale and provides an attractive hotel facility for the community.

4. <u>Pedestrian ways and Open Spaces</u>. Provide a pedestrian circulation system to facilitate the movement of pedestrians to and within the major development activities within the area.

- 5. <u>Building Heights and Massing</u>. Building heights and massing for the proposed project will comply with the C-2 zone.
- 6. <u>Circulation, Access and Parking</u>. The Plan provides for vehicular access to the Community Redevelopment Area in a manner consistent with the needs of the development and the community.

The Plan provides for an adequate supply of appropriately located parking in accordance with applicable zoning district regulations. Adequate parking needs to be provided so the development does not generate parking problems for abutting commercial and residential streets.

7. <u>Off-Street Loading, Service and Emergency Facilities</u>. The Plan provides for consolidated off-street loading and service facilities.

The Plan provides for emergency vehicle access in a manner compatible with established design and environmental objectives.

The Plan provides a maximum floor area ratio in accordance with applicable zoning district regulations in the Community Redevelopment Area.

- E. <u>Proposed Changes and Actions</u>. The Community Redevelopment Area is anticipated to function as an upscale hotel attracting commercial travelers and tourists. See <u>Exhibit "C"</u> for an example of a conceptual land use and site plan for the Community Redevelopment Area. This section describes the proposed changes needed, if any, to the zoning ordinances or maps, street layouts, street levels or grades, and building codes and ordinances, and actions to be taken to implement this Redevelopment Plan.
 - 1. <u>Zoning, Building Codes and Ordinances</u>. The Community Redevelopment Area is zoned C-2 Neighborhood Commercial. No additional changes to the City's Zoning Ordinances, Building Codes, or other local ordinances are contemplated to implement this Redevelopment Plan.
 - 2. <u>Traffic Flow, Street Layout and Street Grades</u>. The only street providing access to the Community Redevelopment Area is Winters Creek Drive from Highway 26.
 - 3. <u>Public Redevelopments, Improvements, Facilities, Utilities and Rehabilitations</u>. In order to support the new land uses in the Community Redevelopment Area, utility extensions and right of way landscaping will be required.
 - 4. <u>Site Preparation and Demolition</u>. Site preparation will consist of general earthmoving to support the building construction and parking areas.

- 5. <u>Private Redevelopment, Improvements, Facilities and Rehabilitation</u>. The private improvements anticipated within the Community Redevelopment Area include site preparation and the construction of a new three story 85 room upscale nationally-branded hotel.
- 6. Open Spaces, Pedestrian ways, Landscaping, Lighting, Parking. The proposed site plan and private sector improvements will comply with the City's minimum open space, pedestrian way, landscaping, lighting, and parking standards as defined in the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, Building Codes, or other local ordinances. In addition, the City may elect to require additional standards in these areas as described in a written redevelopment agreement in order to help remove blight and substandard conditions
- F. <u>Cost-Benefit Analysis</u>. A City of Scottsbluff Redevelopment Project TIF Statutory Cost Benefit Analysis is incorporated herein by this reference ("Cost-Benefit Analysis") and is shown on <u>Exhibit "E"</u>. The Cost-Benefit Analysis complies with the requirements of the Community Development Law in analyzing the costs and benefits of the Redevelopment Project, including costs and benefits to the economy of the community and the demand for public and private services.
- G. <u>Proposed Costs and Financing; Statements</u>. The City will work with the redeveloper owner of the Community Redevelopment Area to identify proposed funding, timeframe, ability to carry out the proposed Redevelopment Project, and the level of contributions necessary to be made by the City of Scottsbluff.

The City will begin good faith negotiating on a specific written redevelopment agreement with the redeveloper owner of the Community Redevelopment. The written redevelopment agreement will include a site plan consistent with this Redevelopment Plan, development descriptions, specific funding arrangements, and specific covenants and responsibilities of the City and the redeveloper to implement the Redevelopment Project.

Estimated Redevelopment Project costs, including site acquisition and site preparation, and are shown as follows:

POTENTIAL ELIGIBLE PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS*

Site Acquisition	\$800,000.00
Site preparation	\$450,000.00
Plan preparation and legal	\$ 22,500.00
Total	\$1,272,500.00

The figures above are estimates. Final figures are subject to a specific site plan, design specifications, City approval and public procedures and regulations.

The Potential Eligible Private Improvements will exceed the amount of funds available from the tax-increment financing indebtedness.

This Plan proposes that TIF Bonds, purchased by the developer fund the Redevelopment Area site acquisition and site preparation for the project. The balance of private improvements and any required public right of way improvements will be paid by the developer.

The amount of the available proceeds from the TIF Bonds is estimated at approximately \$980,000.00 assuming the hotel will generate an estimated property valuation of \$5,300,000.00 over the present estimated property valuation base.

Any ad valorem tax levied upon the real property in a Redevelopment Project for the benefit of any public body shall be divided, for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) years after the effective date of such provision established in the redevelopment contract to be executed by the Redeveloper and the Community Development Agency. Said tax shall be divided as follows:

- a. That portion of the ad valorem tax which is produced by the levy at the rate fixed each year by or for each such public body upon the Redevelopment Project valuation shall be paid into the funds of each such public body in the same proportion as are all other taxes collected by or for the body; and
- b. That portion of the ad valorem tax on real property in the Redevelopment Project in excess of such amount, if any, shall be allocated to and, when collected, paid into a special fund of the authority to be used solely to pay the principal of, the interest on, and any premiums due in connection with the bonds of, loans, notes, or advances of money to, or indebtedness incurred by, whether funded, refunded, assumed, or otherwise, such authority for financing or refinancing, in whole or in part, a Redevelopment Project. When such bonds, loans, notes, advances of money, or indebtedness, including interest and premiums due, have been paid, the authority shall so notify the county assessor and county treasurer and all ad valorem taxes upon taxable real property in such a Redevelopment Project shall be paid into the funds of the respective public bodies.

Because the redevelopment plan proposes to use tax-increment financing funds as authorized in section 18-2147 of the Community Development Law, the City Council in approving this Redevelopment Plan will be required to find as follows:

- a. the Redevelopment Project in the plan would not be economically feasible without the use of tax-increment financing;
- b. the Redevelopment Project would not occur in the community redevelopment area without the use of tax-increment financing; and
- c. the costs and benefits of the Redevelopment Project, including costs and benefits to other affected political subdivisions, the economy of the community, and the demand for public and private services have been analyzed by the governing body and been found to be in the long term best interest of the community impacted by the Redevelopment Project.

H. Procedure for Changes in the Approved Redevelopment Plan. If the City of Scottsbluff desires to modify this Redevelopment Plan, it may do so after holding a public hearing on the proposed change in accordance with applicable state and local laws. A redevelopment plan which has not been approved by the governing body when recommended by the authority may again be recommended to it with any modifications deemed advisable. A redevelopment plan may be modified at any time by the authority, provided, that if modified after the lease or sale of real property in the Redevelopment Project Area, the modification must be consented to by the redeveloper or redevelopers of such property or his successor, or their successors, in interest affected by the proposed modification. Where the proposed modification will substantially change the redevelopment plan as previously approved by the governing body the modification must similarly be approved by the governing body.

EXHIBIT "A" REDEVELOPMENT AREA Block 2 Reganis Subdivision to the City of Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska

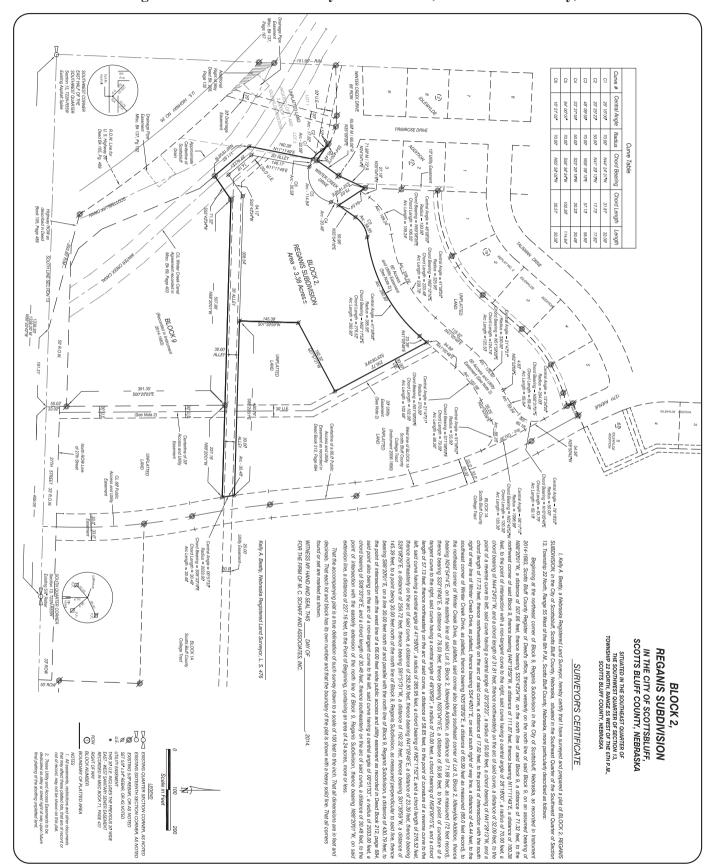


EXHIBIT "B" Aerial Photo of the Site





SCOTUSELUTE, NEERASKA SUTTES



M. C. SCHAFF AND ASSOCIATES, INC. 818 SOUTH BELTLINE HIGHWAY EAST SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA 69361

ENGINEERS ♦ PLANNERS ♦ DESIGNERS ♦ LAND SURVEYORS

EXHIBIT "C"
Redevelopment Area Site Plan

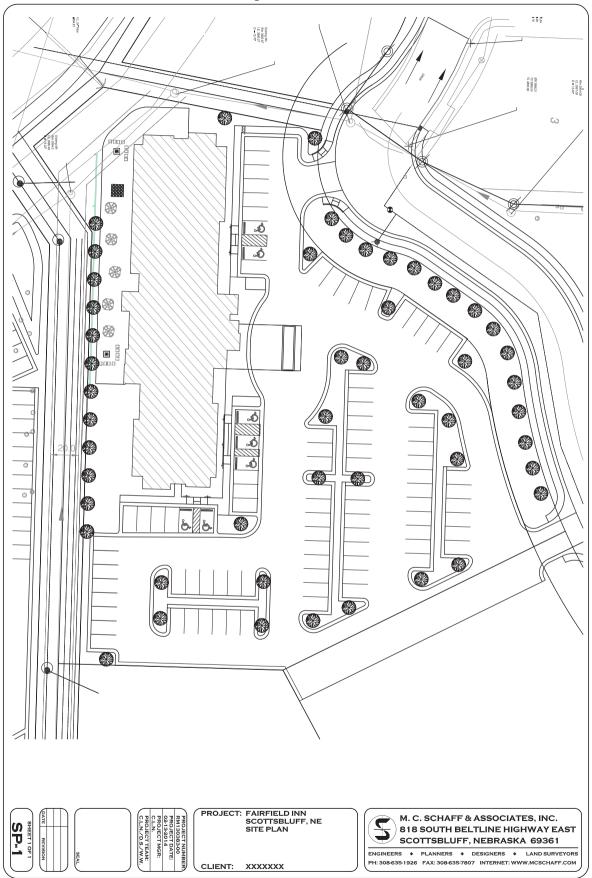


Exhibit "D" Concept Drawing



View of proposed Fairfield Inn & Suites from Winters Creek Drive



View of proposed Fairfield Inn & Suites proposed pathway extension (Highway 26 view)

EXHIBIT "E" STATUTORY COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES at WINTERS CREEK DRIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

As authorized in the Nebraska Community Development Law, §18-2147, Neb. Rev. Stat. (2012), the City of Scottsbluff has analyzed the costs and benefits of the proposed Fairfield Inn & Suites and Winters Creek Drive Redevelopment Project, including:

Project Sources and Uses. Approximately \$980,000.00 in public funds from tax increment financing provided by the City of Scottsbluff will be required to complete the project. This investment by the city will leverage \$6,397,000.00 in private sector financing; a private investment of \$6.52 for every city dollar investment.

Use of Funds.

Description	TIF Funds	\mathbf{P}_{1}	rivate Funds	Total
Site Acquisition	\$ 800,000.00	\$	0.00	\$ 800,000.00
Site Preparation	\$ 180,000.00	\$	270,000.00	\$ 450,000.00
Legal and Plan	\$ 0.00	\$	22,500.00	\$ 22,500.00
Building	\$ 0.00	\$ 4	1,850,000.00	\$ 4,850,000.00
Personal Property	\$ 0.00	\$ 1	,255,000.00	\$ 1,255,000.00
TOTALS	\$ 980,000.00	\$ 6	5,397,000.00	\$ 7,377,500.00

Tax Revenue. The property to be redeveloped is anticipated to have a January 1, 2014, valuation of approximately \$225,000. Based on the 2013 levy this would result in a real property tax of approximately \$4,575.00. It is anticipated that the assessed value will increase by \$5,300,000, upon full completion in 2015, as a result of the site redevelopment. This development will result in an estimated tax increase of over \$107,000.00 annually. The tax increment gained from this Redevelopment Project Area would not be available for use as city general tax revenues, for a period of 15 years, or such shorter time as may be required to amortize the TIF bond, but would be used for eligible private redevelopment costs to enable this project to be realized.

Estimated 2014 assessed value:	\$ 225,000.00
Estimated value after completion	\$ 5,525,000.00
Increment value	\$ 5,300,000.00
Annual TIF generated (estimated)	\$ 107,000.00
TIF bond issue	\$ 980,000.00

Public Infrastructure and Community Public Service Needs. The Project is currently served by sanitary sewer and potable water by the city; however, minor modifications will need to be made to accommodate the site layout. This cost will be borne by the developer.

Employment Within the Project Area. Employment within the Project Area is currently zero. At project stabilization employment is expected to increase to 13 full time equivalent employees. Temporary construction employment will increase during the construction. The construction period is expected to exceed nine months.

Employment in the City Outside the Project Area. The latest available labor statistics show that the Scotts Bluff County labor pool is 19,591, with a 4.3% unemployment rate.

Other Impacts. Personal property in the project is subject to current property tax rates. Personal property for the Project is estimated at \$1,255,000, resulting in an estimated personal property tax for the first year of operations of \$25,000. Personal property tax is not subject to TIF and will be paid to the normal taxing entities. Annual city sales taxes paid to the city of Scottsbluff as a result of hotel operations are estimated to exceed \$30,000.00. Local lodging taxes are estimated to exceed \$50,000 annually.

Tax shifts. No shift of taxes or other negative impact is expected.