

City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers
100 N. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755*



Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 1, 2020

2:00 PM

Special Meeting

Main Library - Council Chambers

Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board

Roll Call

Present 5 - Board Member Kevin Chinault, Board Member Linda Kemp, Vice Chair Gabby Camacho, Chair Peter Scalia, and Board Member Camille Hebting

Absent 2 - Board Member Carmen Santiago, and Board Member Peggy Cutkomp

Also Present - Denise Sanderson – Economic Development & Housing Director, Chuck Lane – Economic Development & Housing Assistant Director and Rosemarie Call – City Clerk

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

Unapproved

1. Call to Order – Chair Scalia

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Chair Scalia, Vice Chair Camacho, Board Members Kemp, Chinault, and Hebting, attended the meeting using communications media technology. Also participating in the meeting were Economic Development and Housing Director Denise Sanderson, Economic Development and Housing Assistant Director Chuck Lane and City Clerk Rosemarie Call.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve the March 10, 2020 NAHAB Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Hebting moved to approve the March 10, 2020 NAHAB Meeting Minutes. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda - None

4. New Business Items

4.1 Recommend City Council approval of the Amendment to the City of Clearwater's 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to reallocate unencumbered funding and to budget for additional funding provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD) to address needs resulting from the COVID-19 Emergency.

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), \$492,592 of Community Development Block Grant Program funding (CDBG-CV) was directly allocated to the City of Clearwater for use within eligible programs to address community and housing impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. HUD has also provided various regulation waivers and suspensions to provide for additional flexibility and expediency in utilizing the funding.

The proposed amendment provides for the expenditure of \$492,592 in CDGB-CV, \$130,000 of unencumbered CDBG funding from Program Year 2019-2020 and \$300,000 in HOME Investment Partnership Program funding.

The funds will be distributed through four categories:

Business assistance: The Economic Development and Housing Department (ED&H) will administer a program to provide grant funding and technical assistance to eligible businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residential assistance: ED&H will administer a program to distribute funds for rental and utility assistance as well as mortgage and utility assistance to residents whose incomes have been affected by the pandemic.

Public Services: For Program Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and the CDBG-CV allocation, HUD has eliminated the requirement to spend no more than 15% of the respective allocation on Public Services. The proposed amendment budgets for expenditures in excess of the 15% cap for Public Services that mitigate or respond to impacts arising from the pandemic.

Program administration: HUD regulations provide for up to 20% of CDBG-CV to be used for costs associated with administering these programs. The city's General fund is not impacted by the proposed amendment.

Staff will present this item at the City Council Meeting scheduled for May 7, 2020.

APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT:

A mid-year budget amendment will establish special program 181-G2010, CDBG-CV Fund, recognizing a budget increase of \$492,592 in CDBG grant revenues from HUD, and a transfer of \$131,000 in CDBG revenues from 181-G2004, Public Facilities.

Economic Development and Housing Assistant Director Chuck Lane

reviewed the request.

In response to questions, Mr. Chuck Lane said individuals needing rent and utility assistance will know if they qualify for Pinellas County's program based on their income bracket. Individuals needing rent or utility assistance who are denied county assistance because they fall in a higher income bracket, should apply for the City's rent and utility assistance program. Information regarding the program will be available on the City's Housing website, beginning May 11. Economic Development and Housing Director Denise Sanderson said the City's website includes a COVID-19 landing page that will include information on this program and all related resources.

One comment supporting Item 4.1 was received electronically and read into the record by the City Clerk (see page 5).

Vice Chair Camacho moved to recommend City Council approval of the Amendment to the City of Clearwater's 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to reallocate unencumbered funding and to budget for additional funding provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address needs resulting from the COVID-19 Emergency. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lane said the next scheduled meeting will be June 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Attest:

Chair
Neighborhood & Affordable Housing Advisory Board

Board Reporter



608 N Garden Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755



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April 27, 2020

Mr. Charles Lane, Assistant Director
City of Clearwater Economic Development and Housing Dept.
P.O. Box 4748
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Mr. Lane:

I recently became aware of your Public Notice in the Sunday's Edition of the Tampa Bay Times. The notice requested public comments on the City's increased allocation of \$492,592 in CDBG funds through the CARES Act to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The public comments should reference our perception of how these funds shall be distributed.

As you are aware, Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. has been providing housing services to residents of the City for a number of years. With the recent pandemic, we have received comments from these residents on the current needs to maintain housing. They stated that they need financial assistance to temporarily pay their mortgage or rent due to being temporary unemployed due the Stay at Home Mandate to address the Coronavirus. They also noted the need for assistance to help them prevent foreclosures.

We recommend that you allocate some of the funds for the activities listed above. We currently have staff that would assist you in distributing these funds for the CDBG Program. We request that this letter be entered in your public comments to the Neighborhood Affordable Housing Advisory Board and City Council.

We thank you for soliciting public comments on this new funding allocation and look forward to assisting the residents of the City of Clearwater.

Sincerely,

Isay M. Gulley, President and CEO
Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Service, Inc.

Cc: Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc
Board of Directors
Terry Malcolm-Smith

NAHAS
Rec'd 5/1/20
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