

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
POLICY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

June 4 2020

City of Bristol

4:45 P.M. BRISTOL CITY HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/WEBEX

**ATTENDEES:** Tom Hick, Dave Mills, Charles Cyr, David Preleski, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller

**STAFF:** Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator  
Justin Malley, Executive Director-ECD  
Dawn Nielsen, Marketing & PR Specialist  
Christine Cooper, Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS:** Michael Zammet, Don Palaia, Tom Morrow, Christine Thebarga

I. The Hearing was called to order by ECD Policy Committee member Tom Hick at 4:49 p.m.

ECD board members and staff were introduced.

Opening Remarks were read by Commissioner Hick:

We are holding this Public Hearing primarily to discuss amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan which is part of the Community Development Block Grant Program. As a response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, HUD has authorized entitlement communities such as Bristol to amend the Citizen Participation Plans in order to better respond to emergencies such as public health crises, natural disasters, and other events in which the entire community is at risk. The amendment allows the City to post notices of public hearings and meetings for shorter time periods and to arrange alternative methods of holding public hearings and meetings, including the one that we are using tonight.

The Plan now permits the use of technology such as Webex, Zoom, Facetime, and whatever new programs are developed to allow public meetings to take place during times of quarantine or emergency. We are also open to any questions that people may have about the substantial amendment to the CDBG Annual Plan that will direct CDBG-CV funding to St. Vincent DePaul for expansion of their capacity to house homeless individuals while still respecting the social distance guidelines that are in effect.

Would anybody like to begin the discussion or make a comment.

Ernie Petti, 65 Palmorr Place, had a question and was referred to the regular Board meeting which begins at 5 p.m. or following the public hearing.

Don Palaia spoke about the reason for the funding amendment. The expenses were reviewed.

Additional comments were made by Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu regarding the preparations that were made meanwhile. She thanked Don, Tom, and members of the board for all their work during this difficult time. She said she was fully in support of using these funds per this plan. Mr. Palaia is also looking forward to Christine Thebarga taking over the role of director.

Tom Morrow joined the meeting. Tom said they will not be going to Immanuel Lutheran at this point in time.

No other comments were forthcoming from the Public.

III. Public comment on the Draft Amended Citizen Participation Plan related to the corona virus pandemic.

There were no comments.

IV. Close the Public Hearing

The Public Hearing closed at 5:01 p.m.

V. Consideration of the Substantial Amendment and Amended Citizen Action Plan

A. Council Member Preleski made a motion to approve a Substantial Amendment to the CDBG Annual Action Plan for Year 45, and to the CDBG Five-Year Consolidated Plan for 2015-2020, to reflect the allocation of Federal CARES Act funds to Bristol in the amount of \$393,989 to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the corona virus. Commissioner Hick seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

B. Council Member Preleski made a motion to approve the Amended Citizen Participation Plan, which allows for shorter Public Notification time and the use of Virtual Meetings (utilizing audio-visual tools such as Zoom, Webex, and others) as a substitute for in-person meetings in the event of a quarantine due to a public health emergency, epidemic, or pandemic. Commissioner Hick seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Mills made a motion to adjourn at 5:07 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cooper,  
Recording Secretary