

February 14, 2022

A Public hearing for Community Development needs was held February 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Those people present were:

Mayor Roni Phillips

Councilors: Kelly Dillon, Wanda James, Thomas McCloskey, Bonnie Fuller, David Hubler

Clerk: Brenda Schneider

Rodney Goins, Public Works Superintendent

Andrew Cadman, Public Works Assistant

Steve Temple, Fire Chief

Andy Short, County Planner

Chris Hayes, Engineer, RPA

Citizens: Sherry Goins, Luke Ferguson, Maura Johnson

Mayor Phillips opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Mayor Phillips stated that the purpose of this meeting is to inform the public as to the various funding programs offered by the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and to obtain public input and comments regarding Town's overall community development needs (public facilities, economic development, and housing needs), including the needs of low- and moderate-income persons in Superior.

Chris Hayes, Engineer, gave a presentation on the various funding programs offered by Community Development Block Program (CDBG). The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program designed to help communities: Provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities. Particularly for the state's low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. CDBG Program requires projects to: Meet HUD's national objective to benefit LMI persons and Meet Montana's state objective based on the most current Consolidated Plan to provide these benefits by: Improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods and Improving access to quality facilities, infrastructure, and services. The four grant programs with CDBG are Planning grants, Community and Public facilities grants, Economic Development grants, and Housing development, rehabilitation and stabilization grants. An eligible entity may apply for more than one CDBG category. Each eligible local government jurisdiction may apply once per application cycle for each of the categories of CDBG grants as long as the applicant does not have an open CDBG project that was awarded more than four (4) years ago. To qualify for CDBG funds: 1) a minimum of 51 % of the beneficiaries must be documented as persons of low- to moderate-income 2) Low- to Moderate-income (LMI) persons are individuals earning less than 80% of the area median household income (MHI), 3) Population of less than 50,000. Based on 2015-2019 American Community Survey Data, the Town of Superior's LMI is 83.3%, MHI is \$27,344, population is 703 (2020 Census has a population of 830 for Superior). CDBG Planning Grants may be used for the preparation of plans, studies, training or research in a variety of areas with a maximum grant of \$50,000. CDBG Public and Facilities grants help local governments fund construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities that primarily benefit LMI Montanans with a maximum grant of \$600,000. CDBG Economic Development program is designed to stimulate economic development activity by assisting Montana's private sector to create or retain jobs for low- to moderate-income persons primarily through loans to businesses. Funding for employee training is also available with a maximum grant of \$400,000. CDBG Housing grants help local governments fund new construction or rehabilitation of single-

or multi-family housing projects that benefit low- to moderate- income (LMI) Montanans with a maximum grant of \$600,000. Discussed the requirements of each category and the types of projects that are eligible for CDBG funds. Discussed the required matching funds for the CDBG programs.

Discussed the results of the 2021 Town of Superior Community Needs Assessment Survey. 403 surveys were sent, 130 surveys were returned. Some results of the survey: What specific improvements are needed to Superior Parks?

- Swimming pool
- Restrooms
- Updated equipment

Are the Town's existing recreational opportunities adequate for specific age groups?

- While a majority said yes for Preschool and Elementary ages, 53% said no for Senior Citizens

When asked what should the Town prioritize as it grows?

1. Business development
2. Infrastructure
3. Walkability
4. Outdoor recreation
5. Affordable housing
6. Other (includes bike trails, sidewalks, lighting, senior center)

What part of the Town's infrastructure needs improvements?

- Streets and Pedestrian Access
- Community Services
- Water
- Stormwater & Telecommunications
- Sewer

What projects or programs would you like the Town to improve or develop first?

1. Swimming pool
2. Housing
3. Improve community sewer and water systems
4. Economic development

Steve Temple asked how many planning grants can an entity have at one time. Chris Hayes responded that an entity may apply for one CDBG planning grant per funding cycle and have only one open planning grant at a time.

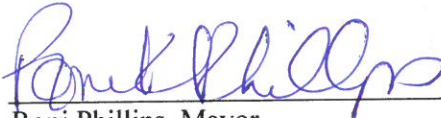
Maura Johnson stated that there is a need for more housing and affordable housing in the area.

Andy Cadman stated the need to remove the sludge, replace the lagoon liners, replace the blowers and blower building, replace the aerators and to stabilize the lagoon banks that are settling. This project is important to maintain the integrity of the wastewater infrastructure for the Town of Superior.


Sherry Goins stated that childcare facilities are needed as there are no facilities available to open a childcare facility in Superior.

There will be two more public hearing, one of which will be held to discuss a specific project or projects.

With no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:25 pm.



Roni Phillips, Mayor

Attest


Brenda Schneider, Town Clerk

