

**CITY OF TIPTON
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2021
5:15PM**

Mayor, Tom Dolezal, opened the public hearing and turned the floor over to Tina Henderson, grant administrator with Mendenhall and Associates.

Tina Henderson: Tonight's public hearing is announcing that the City of Tipton is seeking COVID 19 Response grant funding for business grants to help offset impacts from COVID 19 and to provide youth counseling. Tonight, I will start by reading the public hearing advertisement that was published in the Tipton Tribune.

On or about March 11, 2021, the City of Tipton is seeking COVID 19 grant funding from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This program is funded by Title I of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: The total grant request under the COVID 19 Round III program is \$250,000.00. These funds will be used for Public Service activity (Mental Health Services) and Economic Development (Business Grants). The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income persons is \$127,500.00. The applicant will not commit a local match as this is a 100% grant.

The City of Tipton will hold a public hearing on March 8, 2021 at 5:15 p.m., in the City Hall Council Room located at 216 S. Main Street in Tipton to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federally funded CDBG project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Tina Henderson, P.O. Box 428, Arcadia, Indiana 46030, or call 317-984-8639 not later than March 5, 2021. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of March 5, 2021 at the Clerk Treasurer's office located 216 S. Main Street in Tipton, between the hours of 9am – 3pm. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to Tina Henderson, PO Box 428, Arcadia, Indiana, no later than March 5, 2021, to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the City of Tipton and is also available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Mayor Tom Dolezal – 765-675-7561 from 9am to 3pm or write to Tina Henderson- P. O. Box 428, Arcadia, Indiana 46030.

When the City was informed of the COVID 19 funding, they reviewed the needs of the City and two activities eligible for these funds became a City priority. The first activity is business grant funding. This will be round II of funding for the City of Tipton's Businesses. After Round I of 2020, the City has heard that roughly 120 businesses are still struggling to meet monthly expenditures. To help these businesses catapult into the post pandemic era, the City is seeking \$169,750.00 in business grant funding to disburse to local businesses that have been impacted by COVID 19. These funds will preserve low-income jobs and help these businesses prepare for the changing environment after COVID 19. Roughly 42% of the businesses within the City of Tipton are retail in nature and have been impacted through social distancing and less hours of operation. Businesses will be able to apply for up to \$10,000.00 and roughly 30 grants can be distributed through careful scoring and review of the scoring committee. Grants will range from \$1,000.00 up to \$10,000.00. If funded, the business grant will be made available in May 2021 and closing of this grant will be in December 2021.

The other activity is youth counseling. This is a partnership with Tipton Community School Corporation. The School system has seen an increase in the need to provide youth at this school with free counseling services. The pandemic has been difficult on the student's mental health and the school system has a waiting list of students that have been identified as high risk and in need of services.

Kem Ehman, council member: I have firsthand experience with the school system and can tell you the waiting list is substantial and is climbing each day. The pandemic has been harder on the youth than most adults realize. The lack of socialization and routine has damaged a social network that is the foundation of education. It will take time once the school system begins to get back to five days a week. Many students will struggle just getting back to school after such a long break.

Tina Henderson: The counseling portion of the grant is \$74,000.00. It will cover Four County Counseling Services and a Program called Source of Strength. Source of Strength will address suicide prevention.

Mayor Tom Dolezal: Stated, he gave his full support for both programs. I have firsthand experience with the needs of our business community and see the need to enhance our youth with counseling services to work through youth issues at a level of understanding that will give them coping skills to last a lifetime. It's important for our City to stand behind and support our economy and future citizens of our community.

The mayor asked is anyone had any additional questions?

No one responded.


Tina Henderson stated the grant application is due this Thursday, March 11, 2021. Awards will be announced on April 15th.

Mayor Tom Dolezal closed the public hearing.

Submitted by Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer.



Tamera Clark, Clerk-Treasurer



Council President