

# New Philadelphia PY 2017 CDBG SMALL CITIES PROGRAM

## PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1

### Meeting Notes

March 13, 2017 7:15 PM

President of New Philadelphia City Council Sam Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM in the Council Chambers in the John Knisely Centre. The Hearing was presented by Erin Begue, Funding Administrator for W.E. Quicksall and Associates. Present were Councilmembers Cheryl Ramos, Darrin Lautenschleger, Aimee May, Dean Holland; Mayor Joel Day; Council President Sam Hitchcock; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright; Service Director Ron McAbier, Treasurer Tom Gerber.

**ITEM(S):** To provide citizens with pertinent information about the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Small Cities Program, including explanation of eligible activities and program requirements.

**PRESENTATION BY Erin Begue, Funding Administrator for W.E. Quicksall and Associates Ms.**

Begue began by stating that throughout the years the City has received a lot of money to replace sidewalks, doing a lot of flooding/ drainage work. That last project that received a lot of money was around the Central School area. CDBG is administered through the Office of Community Development. They have to follow the HUDD regulations. Part of the HUDD regulations is having two public hearings for the CDBG Programs. Tonight is obviously the first, the second one is normally held in May which will go over a project that the City has proposed the project components and the project costs. One of the other regulations of HUDD is that in order to be eligible for CDBG is that in order to have a certain LMI which is 51% or higher. Currently with the Census and the way they recalculated the whole census tracks the City is around 30-35%, depending on what census track they use so therefore income surveys are going to have to be done pretty much anywhere throughout the City where they want to do a project. Right now there's \$20.6 Million available statewide through CDBG. Some of the programs that are directly associated with the CDBG program is the Neighborhoods Revitalization Grant which is what we used on the West Elementary School Project, Critical Infrastructure, and Downtown Revitalization. One of the biggest changes with CDBG is the City is eligible for approximately \$75,000.00 every year, well it's now going to every other year program. So, instead of the City being eligible for \$75,000.00 this year it's now going to be worth \$150,000.00. So the City's not losing out on money, it's just instead of doing \$75,000.00 every year they're going to do \$150,000.00 every 2 years, so it allows the City to do a bigger project. The neighborhood and downtown are still very competitive and have to be applied for with the CDBG application. Critical infrastructure could be applied anytime throughout the year until the money is gone Statewide. Some to the projects that can be done; acquisition, demolition, parks, some employment acquiring land. The biggest one is the construction that we see, the sidewalks, fixing the drainage and storm sewers. We've been doing CDBG programs since 1996. This program has been very beneficial to the City. We are going to be kicking off Fair Ave Sidewalk Phase 2 this Summer, which is around East Elementary School. Briefly talking with the City the proposed project that they would like to submit this Summer which is still in fine tuning because the LMI has not been checked. I did hear from the school today they are on-board with the project. We are planning on doing water, sewer, storm sewer, sidewalks, alley and playground improvement by Central Elementary. Two years ago in 2015 they made a CDIS Requirement which is a Community Development Information Strategy. Now that it's been two years the City is going to have to hold a meeting which invites key stake-holders to a friendly session on how they want to see CDBG money spent in the future, discuss fair housing requirements, and how it can be applied to help benefit the City. That date is to be determined. The application is due June 16, 2017. Also, we're going to put an alley around the playground at Central to eliminate some of the traffic flow before and after school. There was a discussion of possibly putting a parking lot in back there as well depending on how much land could be taken. The school checked with their development association through the school and the more land they give up if they want to do any improvement at Central down the road that can hurt them in the long run. I did mention that I told Mr. Graham that I would bring it up. I'm not sure of the housing situation between Central and the High School but since demolition can be used with CDBG money if there is any housing that they would like to tear down and possibly make into a parking lot to benefit both schools that's an option.

**THE FLOOR WAS OPENED UP TO QUESTIONS FOR ERIN BEGUE WITH W.E. QUICKSALL AND ASSOCIATES CONCERNING THE CDBG SMALL CITIES PROGRAM.**

Mr. Holland had the following question:

You talked about Central Elementary. We've been working in the area of East Elementary for several years now and the sidewalk curbs and gutters are still not completed in that area. Does this also incorporate that?

Mr. McAbier had the following reply:

We're doing that this year. We're finishing that down to 5<sup>th</sup> Street this year.

President of New Philadelphia City Council Sam Hitchcock had the following question:

Was there a railroad bed through there.

Mr. McAbier had the following reply:

Yes.

President of New Philadelphia City Council Sam Hitchcock had the following question:

Are there any restrictions?

Mr. McAbier had the following reply:

No, they built a Habitat House on the other side on that same land. That was donated to them from the railroad.

Erin Begue made the following comment:

The same requirements stand as with West Elementary. If we cut into the school property the school's going to turn that land over to the City because the application has to be completely owned by the City. Even though there may be a playground improvement the way the State looks at that is if we put a play pod in or repave the playground in that area to count as a park improvement they look at Central Elementary School as a neighborhood park after school hours and in the summer.

**ACTION:** No action was taken at this time.

**With no further questions or comments regarding the CDBG Small Cities Program,** the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.