

# CITY OF LA PINE, OREGON

## URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY MEETING

Tuesday, July 07, 2020 at 3:00 PM

La Pine City Hall: 16345 Sixth Street, La Pine, Oregon 97739

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### MINUTES

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Vicki Russell at 3:05 p.m.

#### 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Vicki Russell

Council President Don Griener

Jean Spetter Sutton

Ann Gawith

Andrea Hine

#### STAFF

City Manager Melissa Bethel

EDCO Representative Patricia Lucas

Planner Alexa Repko

City Recorder Robin Neace

#### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 4. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

*Any matters added to the Agenda at this time will be discussed during the "Other Matters" portion of this Agenda or such time selected by the Urban Renewal Agency.*

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. 6.2.2020 Urban Renewal Agency- Public Hearing & Adoption of Urban Renewal Budget Minutes

Motion made by Andrea Hine, Seconded by Ann Gawith.

#### 6. INTRODUCTIONS

Bethel introduced EDCO Representative Patricia Lucas and Assistant Planner Alexa Repko.

#### 7. STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- INITIAL DISCUSSION

Lucas begins discussion re: Storefront Improvement Program. Lucas has a strong background in the implementation of these types of programs. She put together a best practices matrix which shows how other governments have implemented these programs. Lucas also put together an application, but waited to put together a brochure until she got input from the Agency.

Greiner thinks the application requires too much information. He believes that the Agency will not be able to give enough money in grants to require this much information. Bethel clarifies that the Agency will have a lot of money to give out, nearly \$100,000.

Russell believes that everything on the form is necessary, especially explaining the Agency's decisions to the public. However, tiering might be a good idea for smaller projects. There may be some smaller

projects that the Agency wants to fund, and there could be different applications based on award amount. Russell wants to make sure that the impact to downtown is substantial for each loan given.

Bethel emphasizes that the applicants must conform with code and the downtown design plan in order to be awarded a grant. Window coverage is going to be the biggest part of the project. Bethel reminds the Agency that the project was defunded for this year, so this project won't happen until next fiscal year, thus there is an opportunity to have standards in place before the initial roll out.

Repko notes that she is happy to help small businesses walk through the application if they are confused about any particular questions.

Lucas emphasizes consistency in the application process, whether it's for small or large loans.

Gawith wants to fund the smaller projects, as there are some great buildings that all they need is a small facade upgrade. Once the smaller places do a small project, they might want to do a bigger upgrade. The City is small enough that it can take it one project at a time. She also emphasizes Giving grants instead of loans makes the City look good.

Russell likes the idea of a match, as opposed to an outright grant, so the business is invested in the project, but there has to be some criteria. The last thing the Agency wants is to give tax dollars where someone does not do a legitimate job.

Greiner states that grants should be contingent on following the design rules. He believes that if the Agency starts grant funding for a few businesses, more businesses will jump in. He thinks the Agency should take the age of the business's ties to La Pine into consideration for grant funding decisions.

Russell wants the Agency to come to a conclusion that this mechanism presented is a good place to start. Also wants to emphasize the long-term goal of the fund, not the immediate. Russell may be leaning toward loans and not grants. Wants to see 50k set aside for loans, 30k for match, and 20k for grants.

Hine emphasized that the project as it is way ahead of where the project had been before.

Bethel requests that Lucas and Repko come back to the next meeting with a proposed tier system, and proposed hybrid systems of grants, loans, and matches.

Greiner proposes the idea of a forgivable loan. Lucas says that may be a possibility, but emphasizes that jobs are not going to be created by these projects and that is generally when forgivable loans are given. Lucas adds that it is hard to administer both grants and loans, because everyone will want a grant.

Repko proposes a kick-off meeting for the public.

## **8. OTHER MATTERS**

*Only Items that were previously added above in the Added Agenda Items will be discussed.*

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **10. STAFF COMMENTS**

## **11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

## **12. ADJOURN MEETING**

Meeting adjourned at 4:02.