



COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, December 01, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rick Scholl
Council President Doug Morten
Councilor Patrick Birkle
Councilor Stephen R. Topaz

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Jessica Chilton

STAFF PRESENT

John Walsh, City Administrator
Matt Brown, Assistant City Administrator
Kathy Payne, City Recorder
Jenny Dimsho, Associate Planner/Community Development Project Manager
Tina Curry, Event Coordinator

OTHERS

Cindy Stockton
Eliza Galaher
Peace of Mind Farm

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – 6:15 p.m.

TOPIC

1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for lifempowered Empowerment Center

City Administrator Walsh reported that only cities and counties can apply for these types of grants, which is why the City is acting as a sponsor. **Lifempowered** (fka: Riverside Industries) is working with the Port to acquire the property.

Cindy Stockton, Executive Director for **lifempowered**, was in attendance via Zoom. She thanked the Council for the City's support. They have been supporting adults with intellectual disabilities in Columbia County for almost 50 years. The current facility is not working for them anymore. It's not even ADA accessible for the people they support. A new center to offer more programs made the most sense.

City Recorder Payne read the public notice into the record.

St. Helens City Council Public Notice and Notice of Public Hearing

The City of St. Helens is eligible to apply for a 2021 Community Development Block Grant from the Business Oregon. Community Development Block Grant funds come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grants can be used for public facilities and housing improvements, primarily for persons with low and moderate incomes.

Approximately \$12 million will be awarded to Oregon non-metropolitan cities and counties in 2021. The maximum grant that a city or county can receive is \$1,500,000. The City of St. Helens is preparing an application for a 2021 Community Development Block Grant from the Business Oregon for the lifempowered Empowerment Center. It is estimated that the proposed project will benefit at least 75 persons, of whom 95% will be low or moderate income.

A public hearing will be held by the St. Helens City Council at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 265 Strand Street, St. Helens, plaza entrance. The purpose of this hearing is for the City Council to obtain citizen views and to respond to questions and comments about: community development and housing needs, especially the needs of low- and moderate-income persons, as well as other needs in the community that might be assisted with a Community Development Block Grant project; and the proposed project.

Written comments are also welcome and must be received by November 30, 2021 at City of St. Helens, 265 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051. Both oral and written comments will be considered by the St. Helens City Council in deciding whether to apply. The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact Kathy Payne, City Recorder, at 503.366.8217 if you will need any special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting.

More information about Oregon Community Development Block Grants, the proposed project, and records about the City's past use of Community Development Block Grant funds is available for public review at 265 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon, during regular office hours. Advance notice is requested. If special accommodations are needed, please notify Kathy Payne, City Recorder at 503.366.8217, so that appropriate assistance can be provided.

Permanent involuntary displacement of persons or businesses is not anticipated as a result from the proposed project. If displacement becomes necessary, alternatives will be examined to minimize the displacement and provide required/reasonable benefits to those displaced. Any low- and moderate-income housing that is demolished or converted to another use will be replaced.

Public Comments

- ◆ Eliza Galaher. She was recently hired to be the North Coast Education and Outreach Specialist with Fair Housing Council of Oregon, which is a nonprofit organization. She is here to learn and introduce herself as a helpful presence in Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln counties representing fair housing laws.

Councilor Birkle asked what will be in the building. Cindy responded that it would include administrative offices, large conference room/classroom space, ADA accessible bathrooms with a shower, state of the art kitchen based on client needs, and anything needed to act as an emergency shelter.

Councilor Topaz asked if there will be a large refrigerator in the emergency shelter. Cindy said yes, it will be part of the kitchen. She talked about how the houses are prepared for emergencies.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Payne
Kathy Payne, City Recorder

/s/ Rick Scholl
Rick Scholl, Mayor