

**MINUTES
CITY OF FALLON
55 West Williams
Avenue Fallon, Nevada
September 29, 2021**

The Honorable City Council met in a special meeting on the above date in the Council Chambers, 55 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada.

Present:

Mayor Ken Tedford
City Councilman James Richardson
City Councilwoman Kelly Frost
City Councilwoman Karla Kent
City Attorney Mike Mackedon
Deputy City Attorney Trent deBraga
City Engineer Derek Zimney
City Clerk-Treasurer Sean Richardson

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tedford at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Tedford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tedford asked everyone to remain standing. I would like to take a moment of silence for Brigadier General Bob Herbert who passed away on September 24th in a tragic car crash. He served our nation in the Army National Guard and as a Senior Staff Member to Senator Harry Reid. He also was a close friend of mine and served the City as a consultant in Washington. He will be missed.

Mayor Tedford inquired if the agenda had been posted in compliance with NRS requirements.

Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer Elsie Lee advised that the agenda was posted in compliance with the NRS requirements.

Public Comments

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments. He noted that comments are to be general in nature, not relative to any agenda items. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.

No further comments were noted.

Public meeting for discussion of possible state Community Development Block Grant Applications for fiscal year 2022-2023.

City Engineer Derek Zimney stated that the purpose of this public meeting is to provide information about the CDBG program, past projects that have been funded in the City of Fallon, September 29, 2021 Fallon City Council Meeting

an idea of things. Recently, we have had much success in accessing our economic corridors via the Front Street project and we were also awarded funds for Broadway and Sherman Street. These are some examples of eligible activity.

Councilwoman Kent asked if it changes it each year, what they are looking for to fund. Is it pretty much the same like infrastructures, or things like that?

City Engineer Derek Zimney responded that as of lately, it seems like their big push for us is economic development and improvement of LMI areas. These have been the items they seem to be improving.

Councilwoman Kent asked if she could find the details for their requirements by looking for them on CDBG website.

City Engineer Derek Zimney responded that you could do that. Everyone is welcome to come by my office anytime. I have a list and a handbook, and I could talk through things with you. I am certainly willing to make time to go through any specific questions, or ideas that you might have. We can also check eligibility and requirements, and work with the State if we aren't sure.

Mayor Tedford stated to Councilwoman Kent that these used to always be capital projects, for example sewer and water, if you look back in our history. Sidewalks and ADA type of things are what they used to always be. If you look at the dates, it is close to when Bob and I first started. Some of the dates were when Bob first started and then when I was on the Council and Bob was Mayor, and then it kind of switched. Governor Sandoval switched more to economic development, part of it had to be tied to some part of economic development. That is when we were able to use economic corridors, downtown things, and creation of jobs. We were able to align some things with the theatre, creating jobs down the downtown corridor, the food hub was a creation of jobs. We were able to purchase some property under the CDBG for them. I think, if you were interested, it probably wouldn't be best to jump on the website but to go see Derek. Their approach went from this, and I think Bob would agree from his history, to this, where their focus became much narrower. We have sent them what we have thought were good grants over the years, and over the more recent years, that were rejected, and we thought they were some good projects. I think because of this narrow focus and some other factors that were considered, that were unfortunate at the time. Bob might speak to that.

Chief of Staff Bob Erickson stated that the program does change over the years and as the Mayor alluded, that when it was first started it was almost totally developed to improving your infrastructure; water, sewer, and sidewalks. ADA came along and they focused strongly on ADA improvements on older sections of the town. The ADA access and sidewalk improvements. As the Mayor alluded, Governor Sandoval's focus was more on economic development, job creation, and restoring downtown historic areas. We had quite a bit of success with these types of projects. We have received several grants that have allowed us to restore and improve the pool, which is an historic structure, of course. In recent years, we have received substantial grants, especially last year, allowing improvement of our road infrastructures, Broadway, and Sherman. It kind of changes every year and you have to watch the political ins, if you will, of what is in favor. I think we have been very successful over the years.

Mayor Tedford stated that we went through a period when on Capitol Hill the administration wanted to eliminate the CDBG grants. Congress had to really push to save CDBG grants. The County also has the ability to do CDBG grants, but in the City, they prefer the lower to moderate income levels. The City, as a whole, used to be treated as a lower or moderate income level, and then they went to areas where they were only allowed to do the project if they were considered to be low to moderate income level areas. We were very limited.

At one time, it was one side of Maine Street only. The map was not fairly drawn. It was one side of Maine Street only, and the other side not. It went up W. Williams for a portion and ended on part of our residential areas. It wasn't the whole 3.8 square mile area, like it had been in the past, and how it was when Bob and I grew up in this program, where you could do a water and sewer project that would benefit a whole area of town. It had gotten really refined and honestly, I don't know where it is today. What does that map look like?

City Engineer responded stating that it is primarily focused on this side of town, I think for the next meeting it would be helpful if I attached that map. This will clarify things. I will have a nice map drafted up that shows the LMI and every percentage in every part of the City.

Mayor Tedford stated that we were able to get N. Broadway and N. Sherman Street as arterials, as an economic driver to our community. Those streets were very much used, as you know, as arterials off Williams Avenue, to do some repairs on them, and we used part of Front Street. I am just looking back up the list, and that part was still in that zone because it hooked to Maine Street. The ground we purchased, through the grant, for the Food Hub was on Maine Street, that was the one is 2016 and 2017. The theatre was downtown, and that was during Governor Sandoval's time, and was an economic driver for downtown. Like Bob said, you almost always could get something for the outdoor pool because of the draw it has for that portion of the community, and surrounding Oats Park. You can't do quite what we used to be able to do. I remember when Bob was Mayor, we used this for a water and sewer line up N. Maine Street. We couldn't do that today, and there are some confinements. We just can't always do the things we might want to do, and often people would approach the Engineer with things that they want to do. Sometimes we can't do it, if it doesn't meet the territorial requirements of what would be acceptable for the projects. It is a good program. We pushed our numbers on Capital Hill to support it when they were trying to eliminate it. We support CDBG, even when we get turned down for projects that we think are good. We try to match these grants all the time, even when it seems difficult to do because they are good. There have been, on occasion, time where they have come back and said that other people couldn't use their grant money. They just don't want that CDBG grant, so we were able to use it.

Chief of Staff Bob Erickson stated that this has happened several times. The key is, people submit projects, and they require a match, or some other action on part of the government that submitted it. They get toward the deadline, and they can't perform. It is always good to have backup projects because we have been very successful in obtaining those funds that have been allocated as a secondary project, even though we have been approved for one of our primary projects. I think this has happened 2 or 3 times, so it is always good to have 2 or 3 projects on your list and rank them. They might fund your first project and come back and say that they have x amount from a participant that wasn't able to perform under their project perimeters, and we have this money available. They basically must spend it within the fiscal year that the projects funds were granted, there is no carry over from them. The grant the state receives from the Federal Government for CDBG must be funded and allocated within that year. That is an available pool of money. The program, as the Mayor mentioned, I can't remember a budget session of Congress, where they didn't try to eliminate CDBG. It is always because of the advocacy of local governments that it has always survived and grown, in some cases, and remained flat in others. This is a legislative history of it, and now the national feeling is that the infrastructure needs significant investment. I am sure that CDBG will be safe, for at least, a few years. That is kind of how the political winds blow right now.

The Mayor inquired if there were any other questions.

No further comments were noted.

The Mayor inquired if there were any public comments.

No further Comments were noted.

Public Comments

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments. He noted that comments are to be general in nature, not relative to any agenda items. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.

No further comments were noted.

Council and Staff Reports

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any Council or staff reports.

No further comments were noted.

Executive Session

Mayor Tedford tabled the executive session, as it was not needed at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Tedford adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Attest:



Sean C. Richardson, City Clerk-Treasurer



Mayor Ken Tedford