

New Philadelphia PY 2016 CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS

PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1

Meeting Notes

March 14, 2016– 6:45 PM

President of New Philadelphia City Council Sam Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM in the Council Chambers in the John Knisely Centre. The Hearing was presented by Tony Danzo, Project Manager of Municipal Services Corporation. Present were Councilmembers Cheryl Ramos, John Zucal, Rob Maurer, Darrin Lautenschleger, Kelly Ricklic, Aimee May, Dean Holland; Mayor Joel Day; Council President Sam Hitchcock; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright; Service Director Ron McAbier, Treasurer Tom Gerber, Auditor Beth Gundy and Safety Director Greg Popham, as well as Julie Levengood Stephon with the New Philadelphia Business and Community Association and Erin Begue with W.E. Quicksall and Associates.

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

PRESENTATION BY Tony Danzo, Project Manager of Municipal Services Corporation

Mr. Danzo began by stating that Municipal Services has been working with the City for 20 years and is completing the current 2014CHIP Grant which should be finished by the end of this year. He says at that point Municipal Services will step aside, and a new consulting firm will be working with the City by completing the 2016 application. Mr. Danzo says if that application is successful, Municipal Services will work with the other consulting firm to advise on such things as assessing the housing needs of people who apply for assistance, as well as writing the specifications on construction of the improvements on those houses, and also doing the construction management. During the 20 years Municipal Services has been involved the program brought in \$5 million dollars. Mr. Danzo went on to say that the State of Ohio, through the Development Services Agency, administers two federally funded programs, the CDBG Program and the Home Program. At least 51 Percent of the beneficiaries of the block grants must be in the low to moderate income category. The CDBG Block Grant is not competitive, and will award funding to an eligible project if the paperwork is completed on time and turned in. New Philadelphia receives around \$70,000 per year in CDBG Block Grants. Mr. Danzo stated that the City is not eligible for the Housing Development Assistance Program, which is for nonprofits. The City is eligible for the Homeless Crisis Response Program, where funding would be used to start a homeless shelter, but there's already a homeless shelter located in New Philadelphia that's being funded through this program. The City would also be eligible for the Supportive Housing Program, but Friends of the Homeless is already working on that. Another program that covers nonprofits and municipalities is the Housing Assistance Grant Program, which benefits both the Area Agency on Aging and the Society for Equal Access.

THE FLOOR WAS OPENED UP TO QUESTIONS FOR TONY DANZO WITH MUNICIPAL SERVICES CONCERNING BOTH THE CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS.

Councilman John Zucal asked the following question: What makes the Friends of the Homeless and the homeless shelter grant eligible? Mr. Danzo responded: Municipalities or nonprofits are eligible for those two programs. Mr. Danzo says the homeless shelter in New Philadelphia receives around \$108,000 per year from that grant program. Councilman Zucal had another question: Do businesses working through the incubator at the Tech Park have to go through the CIC to apply for funding? Mr. Danzo responded that it depends on the agreement you have with the CIC. Auditor Beth Gundy asked the following question: Can you explain the difference between the Home and the CDBG within the CHIP? Mr. Danzo responded: Congress had the CDBG Program for many years, about 25 years ago they decided to create another program and call it Home and put different criteria on it. For example, CDBG money can be used for home repair and home planning but Home funds cannot be. The targets and objectives are basically the same, but there are some differences on how the funds can be spent.

ACTION:

Public Hearing Number 2 will be held on April 25, 2016 at 7:15 prior to the regular meeting of New Philadelphia City Council in Council Chambers.

With no further questions or comments regarding the CDBG and Home Programs, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.