



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 5, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.
Lorraine Morton Civic Center
2100 Ridge Avenue, City Council Chambers

Members Present: Ald. Rainey (Chair), Ald. Wynne, Ald. Wilson, Ald. Rue Simmons, Andy Pigozzi (Plan Commission Liaison)

Members Absent: Ald. Braithwaite, Hecky Powell, Lisa Dziekan

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Call to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Approved

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Approval of 2020 Meeting Dates

Approved 5-0

B. Approval of Funding Request Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse

Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse executive Director Aina Gutierrez summarized proposal. She explained that only served two Evanston residents participated last year due to limited number of participants who can afford to live in Evanston. Program served a total of 16.

Alderman Rainey recommended Ms. Gutierrez connect with City's General Assistance / Health and Human Services for potential participants.

Alderman Rainey mentioned there are numerous underemployed / unemployed youth who may be able to do the work. She also asked about part time opportunities. Ms. Gutierrez responded none exist.

Alderman Rainey asked that Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse advertisements about the program be shared with city staff and alderman to appear in newsletters and ward meetings.

Alderman Rue Simmons encouraged Ms. Gutierrez to work with the Evanston Development Cooperative

Funding approved 5-0

C. Approval of Financial Wellness Professional Service Agreement

David Tognarelli, Director of Sales First Northern Credit Union summarized the proposed Financial Wellness program to be offered to city residents at no cost.

Zalmezak explained that city will co-market/advertise the program and will help identify locations for workshops, help form a curriculum, and identify potential participants.

Alderman Rainey asked for more information about where the financial wellness BALANCE program offered by FNCU is advertised and who the target market is.

Mr. Tognarelli responded that the program is open to the entire community, but mostly attended by members of the credit union.

Alderman Rainey asked if FNCU tracks participants income levels. Mr. Tognarelli said no.

Alderman Rue Simmons expressed appreciation for the work the credit union already does in the community and also recognizes a potential opportunity to fund additional financial wellness one-on-one programming with reparation funds.

Approved 5-0

D. Approval of Recommended Changes to Business License Code

Zalmezak summarized updates to the registration program. Based on feedback from City Council, staff proposes eliminating home business fee. Home based businesses will still be required to register. Home based businesses will receive all services associated with the registration including newsletter emails, information about business to business opportunities, procurement opportunities, etc.

Alderman Wilson asked if home based businesses will be charged a fee if they do not register. The ordinance includes a late fee for businesses required to pay for registration.

Approved 5-0

E. Recommend approval issuance of RFP for 1805 Darrow

Zalmezak summarized contents of RFP and brief history of the property. Explained that it is an RFQ/P – meaning staff will first look at qualifications before proceeding with recommending approval / seeking proposals.

Alderman Wynne asked how many units could be built on the property. Zalmezak indicated he could estimate and get back with information. (for the record, depending on unit sizes 1,000 to 1,500 sq ft, parking requirements and FAR/Zoning restrictions, likely to building range of 20-28 units assuming a four story building, first floor commercial with three levels of residential)

Wynne also asked about how the site compares to the Housing Opportunities for Women (HOW) project on Dempster. Zalmezak did not know the square footage of the HOW

property, but promised the info. (Upon further research, 16 units at HOW, however, site had restrictions including setbacks and surface parking that limited the development potential)

Alderman Rue Simmons requested staff provide a affordable housing waiting list to determine actual need affordable housing at this location. Fill the building based on actual need.

Approved 5-0

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Economic Development Communication

Alderman Rainey and Wynne expressed appreciation for the ED report and asked that staff communicate the successes more often.

B. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

Alderman Rainey announced that the auto supply store at 641 Howard (Howard and Custer) is going to be listed for sale. Tenant may stay.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.