

**CITY OF DARLINGTON PUBLIC HEARING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – PUBLIC FACILITIES PROJECT
MAY 4, 2021**

The Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Mike McDermott at 6:30 PM. Present at this public hearing were: Mayor McDermott, Cindy Corley, Josh Goebel, Dave Roelli, Ray Spellman, Steve Pickett, Brian Lund, Nicole Solheim, Greg Jewell, Erin Gallagher, Tony Wiegel, Amy Wiegel, Mike Reuter, Bill McDaniel, Nancy Acherman, Joe Weier and Phil Risseeuw.

Mayor McDermott stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to allow for public comments on the proposed SWCAP development project on part of a ten-acre site on Spring Street, Darlington, WI. Mayor McDermott then turned the hearing over to Joe Weier of SWCAP to present information and answer questions. The following items were discussed:

- **Identification of total potential funds.** The CDBG-PF grant application is for \$1,000,000 and there will be \$500,000 in matching funds. SWCAP and Cinnaire are responsible for \$500,000 matching funds. The City of Darlington will not provide any funding. CDBG funds need to be awarded to local governments; and the money will be passed through to SWCAP; and SWCAP will assume all liability.
- **Eligible CDBG activities.** The proposed project consists of construction of a 5,500 sq. foot public community facility with playground; that will be home to Head Start, a free health care clinic, and WIC.
- **Presentation of identified community development needs.** Community Connections Free Clinic has a Dodgeville location that is overwhelmed by demand. They see a number of clients from Lafayette County that would be better served by a Darlington location. Head Start is a Federal Program that promotes school readiness of children from birth to age five from low-income families. The local Head Start program lost space with the Darlington School District and moved to Shullsburg. They currently bus children to Shullsburg, are fully enrolled, and have a waitlist. This new facility will provide space to meet the demand and be in a better location for families. SWCAP completed a Needs Assessment in 2019 that indicated a severe lack of affordable childcare options in the region. WIC currently has limited space at the Health Department in Darlington. A larger facility would provide for more services and flexibility.
- **Identification of any community development needs by public.** No additional needs were stated by those present.
- **Presentation of activities proposed for CDBG application, including potential residential displacement.** It was reported there will be no residential displacement. The 5,500 sq. ft. building will have dedicated space for Head Start (including a fenced-in playground outside) and office/exam room space for the clinic and WIC, plus a waiting room. The building floor plan was presented by Greg Jewell of Jewell Associates. The Free Clinic provides free health care to clients, many of who do not have health insurance. Providing affordable healthcare services helps to prevent more serious and expensive ER visits and hospitalizations in the future. Head Start provides free childcare services for low to moderate income eligible families. And WIC provides free nutrition education programs for income eligible pregnant women, infants and children.
- **Citizens input regarding proposed and other CDBG activities.** Several questions were asked by those present regarding the proposed project. Mr. Weier provided the answers.

There being no further business for this Public Hearing, Mayor McDermott closed the Public Hearing at 6:50 PM.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseeuw, Clerk-Treasurer