

CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 24, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike McDermott at 7:00 PM. Present at roll call were: Joe Boll, Erin Gallagher, Ray Spellman and Dave Roelli. Excused absence: Cindy Corley and Steve Pickett. Absent: None. Also present were: Attorney Aaron Stauffacher, Cale Jackson, Aaron Wolfe, Bob Hermanson, Jordan Buss, Brian Lund and Phil Risseeuw.

Motion by Gallagher second by Roelli that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning a request from representatives of Darlington Community School District to have the City of Darlington be the sub-grantee for a Wisconsin Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for a \$4,700,000.00 community tornado safe room project. Cale Jackson, Aaron Wolfe, Bob Hermanson and Jordan Buss representing the School District attended the meeting to present information and answer questions. Copies of an informational letter and consulting firm description for Jordan Buss were included in the agenda packet. Discussion items included the following:

- Jordan Buss of JBAD Solutions LLC, the Darlington Community School District grant writer and grant administrator, reported on the history of a BRIC grant application, and now an HMGP grant application. Due to a change in the interpretation of the hazard mitigation planning requirement, the Darlington School District is unable to apply for HMGP funding on their own. Since the School District is within the City of Darlington, and the City of Darlington participated and adopted the Lafayette County All Hazard Mitigation Plan; the City of Darlington must be a sponsoring applicant for the project if the safe room project is to continue.
- Jordan Buss then distributed copies of a letter from Robyn Fennig of Wisconsin Emergency Management to those present. The letter confirms the information provided by Mr. Buss; and also states the HMGP is a voluntary program, which can be terminated by the City at any time, if School District representatives fail to comply with grant conditions and requirements.
- Mr. Buss then answered questions from those present regarding the proposed project. The community tornado safe room will be 16,000 sq. ft. area added to the current K-8 building. The new structure will be able to withstand winds from an F-5 tornado. The safe room can house approximately 1800 people. Upon completion, an operations manual will need to be adopted by the School Board regarding use of this facility.
- Under these circumstances, if the HMGP grant is awarded by FEMA, the City of Darlington will be the responsible sub-grantee for this project. Mayor McDermott will need to sign the contract with Wisconsin Emergency Management, stating the City of Darlington will comply with all the terms and conditions of the grant award. The City of Darlington will be relying on the School District, and their representative Jordan Buss, to assure all the terms and conditions of the grant contract are met. Failure to do so will require the repayment of the grant award back to FEMA.

- Discussion was then held concerning a proposed Assumption Agreement between the Darlington Community School District and the City of Darlington. This agreement was prepared by Attorney Stauffacher, and a copy of the agreement was distributed to Council members at this meeting. Attorney Stauffacher then explained the terms and conditions of the agreement; which transfers all of the grant management and reporting to the school district, and the school district releases the City from liability, hold harmless and indemnify the City against any and all claims, causes or action, damages, liabilities, injuries or other responsibilities arising out of or in any way related to the school district's performance of the duties and obligations set forth in the grant agreement. The Assumption Agreement needs to be approved by the City Council and the School Board.
- Discussion was then held concerning the timing of the application filing and approval of the Assumption Agreement. Jordan Buss stated the grant application needs to be filed as soon as possible, before the Lafayette County All Hazard Mitigation Plan expires. It was suggested another Special Council meeting be held to approve a grant application resolution if necessary, and the Assumption Agreement. Cale Jackson and Aaron Wolfe stated a Special School Board meeting could also be scheduled to approve the Assumption Agreement. Both of these meetings could be held next week.

After discussion and consideration, motion by Gallagher second by Roelli to authorize and approve to have the City of Darlington be the sub-grantee for a Wisconsin Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for a community tornado safe room project. By Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of those present to schedule another Special Council meeting for Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 7:00 PM, to approve a grant application resolution if necessary and the Assumption Agreement. There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Gallagher second by Roelli to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseuw, Clerk-Treasurer