

The JOINT CD and FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, February 10th, 2025 beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

CD: Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Schneider, Oswald
Finance: Chair Tollett, Schneider, Cerra, Siwierka, Davis
Others: Armstrong, Stewart
Excused Absence: Lipian

Administration and Department Heads Present:

Mayor Brubaker, Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst. Finance Dir Farrell, Judge Bennett, Clerk Rothgery, CD Mgr. Almobayyed, WWPC Supt. Stewart, WWPC Asst. Supt Derricotte, Public Works Supt Conner, HR Dir Yousefi, Parks Dir Reardon

1. The matter of approval of the January 27th, 2024 Joint Meeting Minutes, as circulated.

Community Development ~ Mr. Oswald moved, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to approve these meeting minutes as circulated.

MOTION CARRIES

Finance ~ Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve these meeting minutes as circulated.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of a Funding Contribution to the Elyria Community Partnership for the year 2025.

Referred By: Elyria Community Partnership Director Roberts

Monet Roberts, 225 East Ave., Elyria is here to talk about this request. She began by thanking everyone for their hard work and dedication. Last year they were able to complete many things; murals along Broad St., landscaping, bike racks. She passed out an impact report along with upcoming events this year. they will be launching a program called Urality, they are working with the Nord Foundation and Heritage Ohio on this. they are excited to have an inventory to track downtown businesses, storefronts, specs and getting a better understanding of what's available downtown.

Ms. Roberts said they have a new grant opportunity that they are giving out to local businesses, up to \$2000.00 business opportunity for small businesses to utilize this grant for marketing and technical support. This grant is offered on behalf of Key Bank. Another program they are working on is called Grow Ely which has five business owners participating in this program in a pitch deck competition and a 9-month program so they learn to grow and skill their business.

They calculated the attendance last year and the economic impact was at about \$20 per person, when they are coming down to these events, small business Saturday or 3rd Thursdays.

They were able to calculate about \$102,000 which goes into the community and business owners that they were able to impact. as far as public art goes, the connect Ely space came out to about \$49,683, that they were able to contribute and the public investment was actually from the two façade grants that were approved through the city with the two property owners to do the masonry work and the private investment was about \$11,000 with the property owner who invested to finish that space. They also were able to do some charitable donations and they expect to increase those this year with two programs with the business owners. They were able to raise some additional funds. Their email contact list has grown to about 827. Simone Christian who owns Planaria, 53 East Ave. She will be helping with the water tower clean-up, which has been a request for several years.

When they started this organization, the funding was starter funding and have scaled back a little this year. They are still in the process of growing and looking into different revenue streams so they can continue to be sustainable. The charitable income has come in a little stronger but they are still looking for support, which goes a long way. They will continue to look for opportunities for their business and property owners. They are excited about the investments that they're making into their businesses. Something else that is exciting is the Pivotal Housing Development, which is a 15 million-dollar investment.

That completed Ms. Robert's presentation.

Mr. Oswald said he has backed this organization but it's getting harder for the City to keep donating. Maybe we should put this on hold at this time. Our general fund isn't looking good and we need to look at ways to start saving. He appreciates all the hard work that they do.

Ms. Roberts said that they can sit down and discuss the investment that the City makes benefits all. If the City were to put this into staff time, they are saving dollars by investing into this organization. They can dedicate more time to this where they can utilize their volunteers and board members and staff who are dedicated to these programs and to build capacity for the city.

Mrs. Mitchell asked for an update on the Foster Ave project.

Ms. Roberts said they are currently in the process of closing; some documents still need to be finalized. They will be closing soon. They have requested some time for the purchase of the property, it has been extended.

Mike Griffin, 1085 Gulf Road, is the Director of Elyria Community Partnership. The last piece of the funding is in the finalization process, finalizing the documents for the Brownfield Grant they received, which is to demolish the school building. The State will finalize those documents. Everything else is ready to go and it will close soon. They will most likely demo and start building close to the same time.

Dir Deery said the grant of \$250,000 for this project is to go toward the prep of the site and demolition. Part of the condition is, it will need to be completed by Dec 31, 2025.

The \$250,000 is not going to complete the job, but they need to move toward that and it is a reimbursement grant.

Mrs. Siwierka said she agrees with Mr. Oswald that it's hard for the City to keep giving out money. She attended some of the events and that they were done really well. Her feeling is that they have given enough to substantiate the dollar requests.

Dir Pileski said the past contributions to the partnership has come out of the 2016 half percent income tax fund, economic development department. That is due to expire June 30, 2026. There has been some contribution included in the 2025 appropriations that will be coming to committee within the next few weeks.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

**Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Mr. Oswald for an ordinance authorizing to make the 'said' contribution of \$75,000 to The Elyria Partnership.
MOTION CARRIED**

FINANCE:

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize an ordinance authorizing to make the 'said' contribution of \$75,000 to The Elyria Partnership.
MOTION CARRIED**

3. The matter of a Downtown Historic Redevelopment Program Applicant for 2 properties, 340 Broad St. and 346 Broad St.

Referred By: Community Development Manager Almobayyed

Mgr. Almobayyed said these are for 2 roofing projects at 340 Broad St. and 346 Broad St. The project consists of removing the polyurethane roof coating and applying another coat. This application was approved by the Landmarks Commission and they provided comments and it also received Design Review approval and also Economic Development Committee. This is a 50% reimbursement grant up to \$50,000. 346 Broad St would be a reimbursement of \$13,9000 and 340 Broad St would be a reimbursement of \$18,207. There was a stipulation put on by the EEDC, that because of the time frame of Issue 6 funding, (2016 ½ percent Income Tax Fund), that instead of 24 months, that the project be completed within 12 months.

The applicant, Jamil Elder said he wants to keep the integrity of the buildings. Each building has small leaks and he intends to own these buildings for a long time and he wants them fixed up and properly sealed.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if there are tenants in these buildings?

Mr. Elder said both building house his businesses. 346 is a sub-shop and convenient store, they've been there 15 years and 340 is a beauty supply store and they've been there about 10 years.

Mrs. Davis asked about the front of the buildings.

Dir Deery said this particular application is a historic redevelopment grant. The façade improvement grant would involve the front of the building.

Mgr. Almobayyed said this grant is called the downtown historic redevelopment grant and the only requirement is that the building is a contributing member of the historic downtown area and it's a local program.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Mr. Oswald for an ordinance for the 'said' program application for 340 Broad Street.

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE:

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance for the 'said' program application for 340 Broad Street.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Motion made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mrs. Mitchell for an ordinance for the 'said' program application for 346 Broad Street.

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE:

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance for the 'said' program application for 346 Broad Street.

MOTION CARRIED

Chair Schneider said that there was no further business for Community Development and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mrs. Mitchell to adjourn Community Development at 6:28 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

The evening's Committee Development Committee has adjourned.

The evening's meetings continued with Finance Committee Meeting which began at 6:31 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant