

**TOWN OF ASTATULA
MAYOR AND TOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES**



**PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 2021
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Mitchell Mack called the Public Hearing meeting to order at 6.00pm. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

Mitchell Mack, Mayor
Stephen Cross
Gayle Sikkema

Absent:

Kimberly Kobera, Vice-Mayor
Orita Issartel

Staff Present:

Graham Wells, Town Clerk
Wally Hoagland, Police Chief
David Fox, Fred Fox Enterprises, Inc.

Roll Call was performed, and it was determined that a quorum was present. The Mayor welcomed residents Lee Ann Pflugh and Karen Smith and David Fox from Fred Fox Enterprises, Inc.

PUBLIC HEARING

The town is intent on making an application for a CDGB grant to install fiber internet connections to areas of the town where 51% of residences fall into the Low to medium income (LMI) brackets. The total amount available through the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Corona Virus (CV) special cycle State of Florida is \$41,931,595.00. The minimum amount a community can apply for - \$200,000.00. The maximum amount a community can apply for is \$5,000,000.00. The Local Government can only submit one application for a single project or program.

The Mayor introduced David Fox from the towns grant administrator who went through a PowerPoint presentation. The key elements and requirements of the grant are as follows:

- Project activities must meet at least one of the following National Objectives:
- Benefit to Low-and-Moderate Income Persons (LMI) individuals and/or households, including:
- Indirect benefit activities – at least 51% of beneficiaries must be LMI (e.g. widening an existing sidewalk); or
- Direct benefit activities – 100% of beneficiaries must be LMI (e.g. Improvements to a food pantry).
- Prevention or elimination of slum and blight; or
- Address an Urgent Need.

Project activities must prepare for, prevent, or respond to health and economic impacts of COVID-19, and should demonstrate a:

- Direct effect: Costs directly associated with coronavirus prevention, preparation, or response, (examples; rehabilitation of building to create additional quarantine and isolation rooms for recovering COVID-19 patients).
- Indirect effect: Economic disruptions (example; small business assistance).

Examples of some of the activities funding can be requested for include but are not limited to the following:

- Rehabilitate a facility/building for testing, diagnosis or treatment of Covid-19.
- Acquire and rehabilitate, or construct, a group living facility that may be used to centralize patients undergoing treatment.
- Installation of wiring, fiber optic cables, and permanently affixed equipment such as receivers for areas to receive broadband/internet access.
- Rehabilitate a senior center, community center or homeless shelter by replacing the HVAC system and/or installing air purification system.
- Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of a building to expand capacity of homeless shelters to accommodate social distancing and isolation.
- Reconstruction of sidewalks (expansion) to allow for social distancing.
- Installation of wi-fi routers/extenders in affordable housing buildings and/or communities which contain at least 51% LMI residents.
- Provide testing, diagnosis or other services at a fixed or mobile location.
- Provide equipment, supplies, and materials necessary to carry-out a public service (e.g., childcare for working parents with distance learning facilities for school age kids).
- Deliver meals on wheels to quarantined individuals or individuals that need to maintain social distancing due to medical vulnerabilities.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to allow citizens the opportunity to bring forward possible CDBG-CV projects they would like to see the local government apply for. Pre-application must be submitted to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) by March 15, 2021. A full application process will follow once DEO has reviewed the pre-applications received. Full applications are anticipated to be due in mid to late summer 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Smith - 13332 - Orange Blossom St. said that she would like to see fiber brought into town to improve the internet service which is inadequate. It will not work for people working from home or children being homeschooled. It is an urgent need.

Leigh Ann Pflugh - 13140 Georgia Ave. echoed the need and that everyone complains about the speed and the cost of DSL that is available in the town.

The Mayor closed public comment and opened up comment from the board.

Councilman Cross described the problems that residents were having with the very slow speeds in the town and the effect that the lack of adequate internet service was having on those working from home and children's education.

The Installation of wiring, fiber optic cables, and permanently affixed equipment such as receivers for areas to receive broadband/internet access was the overwhelming choice from the available categories. Given this the Mayor requested a motion to read the title of Resolution 2021-05. Motion was made by Councilman Cross, seconded by Councilman Sikkema and unanimously approved. The Mayor read the title and requested a motion to approve.

RESOLUTION 2021-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, DECLARING THE TOWN'S INTENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR A SMALL CITIES CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT; DECLARING THE TOWN'S INTENT TO USE THE GRANT FUNDS, IF AWARDED, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WIRING, FIBER OPTIC CABLES, AND PERMANENTLY AFFIXED EQUIPMENT FOR AREAS IN THE TOWN TO RECEIVE BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS; PROVIDING AUTHORITY TO THE MAYOR AND THE TOWN CLERK; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

MOTION by Councilman Cross, to approve Resolution 2021-05; SECONDED by Councilwoman Sikkema.

A Roll Call vote was taken

**Cross YES
Sikkema YES
Mack YES
Kobera ABSENT
Issartel ABSENT**

MOTION CARRIED 3-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Mayor Mack adjourned the meeting at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk