

CITY OF REED CITY
SPECIAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
April 14, 2022

Mayor Meinert called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 227 E. Lincoln Avenue, Reed City, Michigan.

Present Mayor, Roger Meinert. Council Members: Nate Bailey, Dan Burchett, Brad Nixon and Nicole Woodside. Trevor Guiles and Russ Nehmer were absent. City Attorney, David Porteous and City Manager, Rich Saladin, were also in attendance. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag. There were citizens in the audience.

Public Hearing Mayor Meinert opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 P.M. to receive public comments on an application to the MEDC for a grant of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of renovating and building a downtown pocket park including water feature, lighting, and recreation opportunities at the corner of West Slosson Avenue and South Chestnut Street. This pocket park will be a key feature of Reed City's downtown revitalization including outdoor recreation and gathering spot for community events.

Rich Saladin commented the Crossroads Recreation Connections (CRC) has been working on this for a year now and have contracted with Fleis & VandenBrink who have come up with the design of a seasonal pocket park community space.

Rick Stout from Fleis and VandenBrink, gave an overview of the proposed project, the CDBG grant priorities and what the City can expect to see. Mr. Stout went over the time line of the project and encourage the council to support and authorize moving forward with the project as it will benefit the residents of the Reed City area.

Dan Burchett inquired if the City is awarded the grant, does the City need to have the match up front?

Rick Stout responded no, if awarded, they just want to know you have the ability to come up with the match. You can continue to raise funds and you will know by July.

Rick continued to talk about the various uses of the pocket park and how it is fully accessible from all areas and how it will be a community gathering spot, a hub for the community.

Ellen Finkbeiner commented Let's Do It!

Stephanie Boyce commented the residents are really looking forward to it and the opportunities it will bring. It will bring people downtown to use our restaurants and shops.

Sherry Franklin commented there is a lot of change and growth going on in Reed City right now and the timing of this seems really ideal.

Brad Nixon commented he is concerned with the extra load on our aging water system.

Nate Bailey commented we will have to fix it, improve it and make it right. It will have to be addressed.

David Porteous, City Attorney, commented the City has dealt with CDBG program. Many of our improvements to the Wastewater Treatment System received CDBG money. I think the nice thing for this city council is the only up front costs is the money for the engineers to put it together. If selected for the grant you can still say no. You have plenty of time to analyze the costs and issues. From a funding stand point, this is as good of funding opportunity as you would have for something like this. I would not depend on having funding being available a year from now. Maybe it will be an annual thing, but maybe it won't. There's a local match which I think is good because it gets the community invested in it. I really think there will be strong community support to help with that match. It's an attainable goal.

Nicole Woodside ask if approved for the grant, can we still say no?

Dave Porteous responded Yes. When opportunities present themselves you really want to be ready to take it because things do change. Sometimes it has nothing to do with politics, it could have something to do with the economy. In the strongest terms I would say move forward and see what can come from it.

Chris Mund commented the committee will be fund raising. To be able to start with Fleis & VandenBrink it was \$4,800. We raised that in a matter of three weeks. We are not doing a whole lot right now because we are waiting for our 501C3 status which was submitted in January and we haven't heard anything back yet. As soon as we get that then they will purse the fund raising.

Dawn Geise commented we have had a lot interest and people who want to give us money but the biggest thing is that word and seeing it is two different things. It was a big hurdle trying to get actual diagram so they can understand that we're not just saying give us the money and we're not going to do nothing with it. We've had other incidents in our area where things were going to be done and built and nothing came to fruition. We met a little resistance on some of that. Now that they seen us on 9 & 10 News they know we are serious to raise this money. This will happen.

Chris Mund commented we want to give something back to the community and for our children and that type of thing. We'd like it sooner. We've been at this for almost a year now and we're not going to give up.

Rich Saladin commented he can reaffirm that in his meetings with the splash pad committee there is an energy and enthusiasm there and a vested interest for their kids and grandkids and the community of Reed City and the love from being from Reed City. I'd like to reaffirm the potential is there and I think this community can do it.

Roger Meinert ask if the total project cost is \$1,000,000 is there a possibility they may only award a percentage of it?

Rick Strout responded historically they are going to get a lot of request. They indicated they are not going to try and spread things around. That is what we heard. My instinct is it is all or nothing type of thing. Having some of these graphics not only to help you with the fund raising but are going to tell a story is huge. It's an application and we can only put so much in there but these are going to tell a big story.

Roger Meinert commented not knowing what the future will be like, what if awarded the grant and there is an increase in the costs of the project?

Rick Stout responded the project may have to be scaled back or may have to be put in a phase plan.

Dawn Geise commented we were pretty excited with the idea that we could get or even think about a million cause we didn't plan on that on our own and we're going to raise all of it ourselves. We're not done raising. We're not done even thinking we can raise \$100,000. We're not done fixing the area for our kids and our community. So we're not just stopping with this project.

Stephanie Boyce commented you have not seen the last of us.

Chris Mund thanked Rich Saladin for encouraging them to go with an engineering company. I understand now why we need them. Rich has been great to work with. He helped us with a vision.

Lyndsey Eccles-Burchett commented TC Energy was going to help with this project and it sounds like they are still willing. They may offset your portion of it substantially. I think you could count on a significant donation to this project.

There were no written comments received.

The hearing was closed at 6:54 P.M.

Resolution Motion by Burchett, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to approve Resolution No. 2022-05, A Resolution to Authorize the City Manager, Rich Saladin, to Execute Documents related to the CDBG Grant Application. Affirmed by a unanimous voice vote.

CITY OF REED CITY

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION 2022-05
A Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Execute Documents
related to the CDBG Grant Application

WHEREAS, the City of Reed City desires to request \$1,000,000 in CDBG funds for the purpose of renovating and building a downtown pocket park including water feature, lighting, and recreation opportunities at the corner of West Slosson Avenue and South Chestnut Street. This pocket park will be a key feature of Reed City’s downtown revitalization including outdoor recreation and gathering spot for community events.; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost of the project is \$1,150,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City of Reed City hereby designates the City Manager, Rich Saladin as the Environmental Review Certifying Officer, the person authorized to certify the Michigan CDBG Application, the person authorized to sign the Grant Agreement and payment requests, and the person authorized to execute any additional documents required to carry out and complete the grant.

Ayes: Meinert, Woodside, Bailey, Burchett and Nixon.
Nays: None.
Absent: Guiles and Nehmer.
Abstain: None.

Resolution approved this 14th day of April, 2022 by the City of Reed City.

Engineer Contract Motion by Nixon, seconded by Woodside, **CARRIED**, to authorize the City Manager, Rich Saladin, to execute a contract up to the amount of \$2,800.00 with Fleis and VandenBrink to submit the CDBG application grant. Roll call vote. Voting yes were, Nixon, Woodside, Bailey, Burchett and Meinert.

Adjourn Mayor Meinert adjourned the meeting at 6:57 P.M.

Jacalyn R. Beam, City Clerk