

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEARLAND, TEXAS, HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2018, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 3519 LIBERTY DRIVE, PEARLAND, TEXAS.

Mayor Reid called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor	Tom Reid
Mayor Pro-Tem	Trent Perez
Councilmember	Tony Carbone
Councilmember	Adrian Hernandez
Councilmember	J. David Little
Councilmember	Gary Moore
Councilmember	Woody Owens
City Manager	Clay Pearson
City Attorney	Darrin Coker
City Secretary	Young Lorfing

Absent: Councilmember Derrick Reed.

Others in attendance: Jon Branson Deputy City Manager, Trent Epperson Assistant City Manager, Joel Hardy Grants and Special Projects Administrator, John McDonald Director of Community Development and Lawrence Provins Deputy City Attorney.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Conduct a 2nd Docketed Public Hearing in accordance with 24 CFR 91.105 (Citizen Participation) of the Code of Federal Regulations for the City of Pearland's Community Development Block Grant Program Annual Allocations; and providing an opportunity for citizen participation and public involvement.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated he is here for the second Public Hearing as part of the requirements for developing the Allocation Action Plan for the Development Block Grant Program. He further stated the Development Block Grant Program is part of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and used to assist in housing, social services and redevelopment activities. He stated this will be for the Fiscal Year 2019 Allocation and is the highest allocation to date and highlighted the funds that will be spent on Housing and Infrastructure, Social/Public Services and Program Administration.

Citizen Comments: None

Councilmember Carbone stated there have been issues with Utility billing and would like to know if the low to moderate income families are being affected disproportionately and can funds be used to straighten out Utility billing.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated one of the resources that

Pearland Neighborhoods provides is Utility bill assistance for low to moderate income homes that may be experiencing challenges. He stated that though funds are low, they can be used to improve infrastructures involving underground water pipes.

Councilmember Carbone stated it does not sound like it makes sense to use the money toward Utility billing at this time but maybe for future projects it would make more sense.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated that as allocation amounts increase the City could get to a place where more significant HUD funding is provided.

Mayor Pro-Tem Perez stated for owner occupied housing rehabilitation, have projects been identified.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated in fact those projects have been identified and there is a rolling application process so multiple homes can be addressed at the same time, which has been the case in the years since the program has been in effect.

Mayor Pro-Tem Perez asked staff if the City has a list of homes in the area that this fund is available that are in need of the most assistance and are they being addressed by amount of need.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated that is one way it can be looked at and through Code Enforcement reporting homes in low to moderate income areas that are in need of assistance due to visual dilapidation. He stated the funding is also available to persons in need that may not have visual dilapidation who want to apply and the City will assess the need.

Mayor Pro-Tem Perez asked staff if there are any limitations on the City to use funds for structures with repetitive loss.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated funds can be used for disaster recovery and a small portion of funds will be used to make some repairs, though state disaster recovery money is on the way to address those concerns. He stated once those funds are received they can be used for Hurricane Harvey rebuilding and home buyouts, the City is in the process of creating an Action Plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Perez stated he wanted to make sure that the City does not use funds to repair a home that has been identified as a buyout.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated regulatory requirements are in place to make sure that there are not any duplication of benefits and each City department involved is working with a common list of activities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Perez asked staff that if a homeowner refuses a buyout would that disqualify them for City funded repairs.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated refusal would not disqualify a home from repair because the Emergency Management Distribution and the Housing and Urban Development funds are based on a voluntary consideration. He further stated that homeowners that refuse the buyout and remain in the homes, repairs would be assessed based on if they are in a repetitive loss area.

Mayor Pro-Tem Perez stated the City does not have a standing policy, the repair need will be assessed as the program progresses.

Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy stated that is correct but the City has just hired consultants to help with a redraft of the housing policies, the application process and to keep repairs in line with what the Engineering department is doing with buyouts.

Conversation ensued between Mayor Pro-Tem Perez and Grants and Special Projects Administrator Joel Hardy regarding the allocation of funds to salaries and assistance to the community throughout this process.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted and/or corrected this the ____ day of _____, A.D., 2018.

Tom Reid
Mayor

ATTEST:

Young Lorfing, TRMC
City Secretary