

FIRST CDBG PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF BLUFF CDBG PUBLIC HEARING
HEARING HELD AT 190 N 3rd EAST BLUFF, UT, NOVEMBER 16, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

The Town of Bluff first CDBG public hearing was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, in the Community Center, meeting commenced at 5:03 p.m. Electronic participation was made available at 1-321-465-4998 (PIN: 606360107) and meet.google.com/vgr-dzeq-hya.

Present: Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Council Member Luanne Hook, Council Member Linda Sosa, Council Member Jim Sayers
Jade Powell and Michael Bryant of Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments
Public in attendance – Jackie Warren, Tim Hamilton, Irene Hamilton, Barbara Day, Eileen Fjerstad

City Recorder Linda Sosa
City Clerk Linda Sosa
City Attorney Chris McAnany (not present)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Ann K. Leppanen opened the public hearing for the CDBG program and stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to provide citizens with pertinent information about the Community Development Block Grant program and to allow for discussion of possible applications for the 2022 funding cycle. It was explained that the grant money must be spent on projects benefiting primarily low and moderate-income persons. The Southeast Utah Region in which the Town of Bluff is a member, is expecting to receive approximately \$707,000 in total in this new program year with approximately \$433,000 in grants to the communities within the region.

All eligible activities that can be accomplished under this program are identified in the CDBG Application Policies and Procedures Manual and interested persons can review it at any time at jobs.utah.gov.

Mayor Leppanen read several eligible activities listed including examples, such as construction of public works and facilities, water and sewer lines, fire stations, acquisition of real property, provision of public services such as food banks or homeless shelters. Mayor Leppanen indicated in the past the Town of Bluff has received one grant from CDBG for a 50-Year Water Study.

A copy of the regional “Consolidated Plan” is available on SEUALGS’s website at seualg.utah.gov.

This identifies the needs of the communities and counties in the southeastern Utah region.

It was asked that anyone with questions, comments, or suggestions during the hearing please identify themselves by name, before they speak. The clerk will include your names in the minutes and we would like to specifically respond to your questions and suggestions during the hearing.

Mr. Jim Sayers addressed some of the needs of the Old Bluff Elementary School Project shared jointly with Utah Dine Bikeyah, especially the need for a fire suppression system which is estimated to be a cost of \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Ms. Ann Leppanen suggested revisiting last years' CDBG application that was dropped before submission by the Council, which was for renovations to make the Bluff Community Center ADA compliant.

Mrs. Luanne Hook suggested the safe routes to school project and a bike/pedestrian project with UDOT. Mayor Leppanen responded that this would need to be coordinated with the Main Street UDOT project.

Mayor Leppanen then opened the meeting up to further suggestions from the audience. Mrs. Jackie Warren asked if the Town and Dine Bikeyah could jointly apply for an Old School Project and did that make it too complex? Jade Powell responded that if the Town sponsors the Dine Bikeyah plan it is permissible.

Ms. Eileen Fjerstad said the pedestrian and bike trail idea would be a huge benefit to the Town. Mayor Leppanen thanked her and said her remarks were helpful.

Mayor Leppanen then asked if there were any other suggestions and there were not. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.