



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(Virtual Meeting)**

Chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Chris Williams

Members: Williams, Hudson, Jefferson, and Johnson

May 4, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

As part of the city of High Point's COVID-19 mitigation efforts, in-person attendance was not allowed at this meeting. Instead, the meeting was live-streamed, and the public was provided a link to listen to the meeting as it was being live-streamed.

www.HighPointNC.gov/VirtualPublicMeeting

CALL TO ORDER (Virtual Roll Call)

Chairman Chris Williams called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Following a virtual roll call, the following attendance by Committee Members was duly noted.

Present (4):

Chairman Chris Williams, Committee Member Cyril Jefferson (remote participation), Committee Member Wesley Hudson, and Committee Member Tyrone Johnson

Staff Present:

Randy McCaslin, Interim City Manager; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager; Michael McNair, Director of Community Development & Housing; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk; and Lisa Vierling, City Clerk

Staff Participating Remotely:

JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Michelle McNair, Community Resource Manager; and Nena Wilson, Assistant Director of Community Development & Housing

Also Participating Remotely:

Dr. Pamela Palmer, Board Chair of the Guilford County Continuum of Care (CoC); Brian Hahne, Executive Director of Partners Ending Homelessness; Heather Skeens, DHHS Director

The following documents associated with the presentations, are hereby attached as a permanent part of these proceedings:

1. *C.A.R.E.S. Act and related funding & Volunteer Income Tax Assistance PowerPoint Presentation*

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**2021-182 Update-Homeless Services-Guilford County Continuum of Care**

Staff and Officers of the Guilford County Continuum of Care will provide an update on Homeless Services.

Dr. Pamela Palmer, Board Chair of the Guilford County Continuum of Care (CoC) extended greetings; voiced appreciation for the opportunity to share information about the CoC; recognized Brian Hahne, Executive Director of Partners Ending Homelessness, Heather Skeens, DHHS Director, and Cheri Neal, CoC Program Manager (not present) who all are working with the CoC on efforts in assisting homelessness; spoke to the two task force groups working in unison with the CoC Committee, and CoC membership body; to the COVID-19 Task Force group of leaders that have shelters, and were working continuously in efforts of responding, and recovering from COVID-19; and to the continued collaboration with Guilford County.

Ms. Skeens spoke to Ms. Neal's role in assisting with the collaboration with community partners, and the Technical Assistant (TA) with HUD; said that Ms. Neal was also working on a website, and programs for agencies, and homeless individuals.

Mr. Hahne said that there would be three TA's who would begin next week for the timeframe of six months to assist in developing structure throughout the county; and voiced the importance of having safe, and affordable housing.

Chairman Williams thanked everyone for their time and efforts; and entertained any questions.

Ms. Skeens announced a 'Feed the Community' day which would be held on May 22nd on Russel Street in High Point; and that fresh vegetables, and canned good would be given out to those in need.

Chairman Williams requested staff to provide this information on the city's website.

2021-183 Update-CDBG-CV Funding

Staff will provide an update on the CDBG-CV funding.

Michael McNair, Community Development Director provided an update on the CDBG-CV and related funding; said that contracts issued totaled \$552,706.00 leaving an unencumbered balance of \$0; CDBG-CV3 2nd allocation was \$588,561.00; total CDBG-CV allocation from 2 awards was \$1,141,357.00; CD&H planned to amend the Action Plan to appropriate \$588,561.00 in CDBG-CV3; city was notified of an allocation of HOME funds from the ARP in the amount of \$1,988,359.00; and that funds were to be used to address homelessness needs. Mr. McNair provided a list of agencies that were awarded funding that included the agency's: action type, project description, and performance goals achieved, and amount awarded; and concluded outlining the CDBG-CV grant expenditures.

2021-184 Update-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Staff will provide an update on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Michael McNair, Community Development Director provided an update on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) that assisted residents with filing their income taxes; gave an overview of their COVID-19 preventative measures used; provided dates, times, and locations for the VITA program; one of the locations for services was located at the High Point Library at their Drive Up & Drop Off Book Mobile; said the services also included car-side tax preparation appointments at the YWCA in High Point; outlined the progress made by VITA, and provided the benefits of the program from the years 2006-2020 that included the following: tax year, total returned completed, dollar amount of federal refunds issued, the EITC, and the average AGI; concluded with discussion on changes to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; and said that adjustments were being made at this time.

Chairman Williams inquired on the recent amount of funds received in regards to the CDBG-CV. Mr. McNair replied that plans are being made to have a Homeless Day Center Dinner Project to provide funding for the repair and upfit of a site yet to be determined for homeless individuals; and spoke to the possibility of combining and using the HOME funds to provide permanent housing.

Greg Ferguson, Assistant City Manager advised that Representative Kathy Manning submitted the High Point Shelter, and Day Center for homeless individuals as two of her ten projects; funding would be up to \$3 million, with a local match of \$2 million; and said that there were two sites for these projects under consideration.

Chairman Williams requested staff to provide updates on the progress made for the proposed projects from Representative Manning. Mr. Ferguson replied that he would provide updates.

Dr. Palmer offered support from the CoC, if needed, in the two mentioned projects.

Council Member Jefferson voiced appreciation for everyone's involvement and efforts; spoke to future discussions on organizational efforts for these projects; and to having further discussion at the next committee meeting.

Chairman Williams thanked everyone for their efforts; and inquired on restarting Operation Inasmuch for 2021. Mr. McNair replied that they were looking to resume in October; and go back to having the having it twice a year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Christopher Williams, Chairman

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk