

Committee of the Whole
January 26, 2016

Present: Mayor Vulich, Council Members Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, Determann, O'Neill, Allesee, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk, Press and interested citizens.

1. YWCA Housing Request – Shannon Sander-Welzein

City Administrator Jessica Kinser advised the Council that a request has been received from the YWCA for \$15,000 in funding for the Rapid Rehousing Program. The funding can be paid out of TIF LMI Funds.

Ms. Shannon Sander-Welzein, Executive Director of the YWCA, advised the Council that the YWCA was requesting the funds to be used as a match for the Rapid Rehousing Program. She stated that the YWCA offers financial and housing aid to families experiencing homelessness. The goal is to obtain affordable and safe housing for these families. She continued in stating that they stay abreast of grants and other opportunities available for help to keep the families in the homes and to provide them with what is needed to get back on their feet.

Councilmember Determann inquired regarding whether this is a one-time request or an annual request. Ms. Sander-Welzein stated that the YWCA makes the requests annually to all cities in the counties they service. She continued in stating that they have a good support system.

Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding whether the funding would be used to rehab houses. Ms. Sander-Welzein stated that they work with clients to get them into housing and then offer case support.

Councilmember Allesee inquired regarding the number of families who go through the program and go on to live on their own. Ms. Sander-Welzein stated that 75% of families go on to be self-sufficient.

Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding the number of people \$15,000 would impact. Ms. Sander-Welzein stated that it depends on a person's particular needs. Councilmember Gassman stated that the Council had a lot of groups asking for funding and at that time thought it was very important to help them. This is what they have to deal with and the City has been helping them. Councilmember Determann stated that he thought that funding this would open it up to a lot of groups. City Administrator Kinser stated that the use of LMI funds is very restrictive. Councilmember O'Neill stated that he is hesitant to drain the LMI fund. He continued in stating that he realized that the YWCA has been beat up by the State and homeless shelters have been moved to Davenport. Councilmember Gassman stated that people have to go down to Davenport and bring children back up here to school. The YWCA is trying to allow families to stay here which costs less. Councilmember Seeley stated that he would like to see guidelines for how the funds can be used as well back reporting. He continued in stating that the City has a fund which is great for this housing issue; however, there are needs all over and the City should make sure the funds hit all sectors.

City Administrator Kinser stated that there would need to be an agreement upfront and they would need to provide the City with data that funds were used for only those who met the income guidelines.

M/S, Gassman-Seeley moved to forward the YWCA's request to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, O'Neill, Allesee – Yes; Determann – No. Motion carried.

2. Mayor & Council Member Updates

Councilmember Determann stated that he had attended Betty Oakley's funeral. She had been a Council Member for 14 years.

Mayor Vulich advised the Council that he had left a newsletter from the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative at their places.

M/S, Determann-Gassman moved to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Van Loo
City Clerk