CITY OF BENKELMAN

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

The City Council met in the Council Chambers at 6:00 P.M. for a Special Meeting for discussion on the Downtown Revitalization Program (DTR). Present: Council Members JoAnn Decker, Deb Stamm, Barbara Pinkerton, Nick Baney; City Clerk Diane Rosenfelt. Absent: Mayor Tammy Buffington, City Superintendent Tim Smith, City Attorney Tawna Holmstedt and Acting Police Chief/Sheriff Smith. Others Present: Erica Bush, Community Economic Development Specialist; WCNDD, Betty Gillespie; State Historic Preservation Officer, Tracy Peckham, Paul Higgins, Beth Bolio, Josh Bailey, Tana Dale, Gary & Mary Deyle, Shane & Nickole Sis, Derrick Jarmin, John & Lisa Blea, Christina Collier & Daisy Ruiz (by phone).

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, President of Council, JoAnn Decker called the meeting to order and stated that we follow the open meetings law, which is posted on the south wall by the main entrance. Mrs. Decker welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for coming.

President of Council, JoAnn Decker then turned the meeting over to Erica Bush and Betty Gillespie to explain the process of the DTR Program and answer questions from those in attendance.

The City of Benkelman has been awarded $435,000 Community Development Block Grant to be used for Commercial Rehabilitation activities in the City of Benkelman’s Downtown. All projects must be located within the area of the Blight and Substandard area and are to be used for eligible façade improvements.

Matching Funds Applicants must provide private matching or other leveraged funds in the amount of at least twenty percent (20%) of the total cost. Example: A project cost approximately $10,000 will require at least $2,000 in private matching funds and will be eligible for an award of up to $8.000. The Maximum award of $50,000 would require at least $10,000 in private matching funds and will be eligible for an award up to $40,000. Any additional costs are the responsibility of the applicant.

Application Cycle opens August 15th-September 15th. Processing time for application review could be 60-90 days, dependent on the Tier II approval. All applications will be reviewed by a Steering Committee, WCNDD and final council approval. Business receives notice to proceed, contract signed with contractor and then work begins. If any work begins prior to this time, the project is not eligible for the grant.

Applications may be picked up at the Benkelman City Office during normal business hours.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

 JoAnn Decker, President of Council

ATTESTED:

Diane L. Rosenfelt, City Clerk