

## CDBG and Urban Redevelopment Plan – Revitalization Strategy Area Public Hearing

Date: February 7, 2023 at 1:30 PM

Location: Commissioners Hearing Room, South Administration Building, Richmond Hill.

The Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application submittal was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, in Richmond Hill. The following were present: Bryan County Special Projects Manager, Eric Van Otteren, Southern Prosperity Consulting State and Local Government Consultant, Brad Day, and Citizens Patti Hewitt, and Teresa Timmons. This public hearing also discussed the preparation of a Redevelopment Area Strategy which will be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs with the CDBG application.

Eric Van Otteren welcomed attendees at 1:30 p.m. and explained that the CDBG application is intended to seek funds for a new Bryan County Senior Center in Pembroke, Georgia. He continued to explain how CDGB funds can be used by non-entitlement communities that apply through the State of Georgia for these funds for infrastructure projects, water and sewer projects, road paving, and some housing rehabilitation.

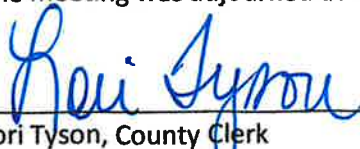
The conversation continued with Brad Day, Southern Prosperity Consulting welcoming the attendees, as well as expanding the brief overview of the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding opportunity.

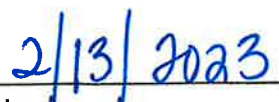
The attendees, Patti Hewitt and Teresa Timmons, were from the Richmond Hill area and very interested in the utility of a CDBG grant for South Bryan. There was good discussion about potential areas of revitalization with Patti and Teresa focusing on the delivery of good, high-speed broadband in their neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods. They shared some ideas for the north Bryan County area including potential opportunities in the Groover Hill community. Eric discussed some of the community characteristics related to the Urban Redevelopment Plan. There is a large area west of Pembroke and including the west side of Pembroke that qualifies as a redevelopment area based on census data.

A Patti asked if the funds could be used for “quality of life type projects.” Brad Day responded that Bryan County could not because the funds must go to a disadvantaged, targeted community as determined by very narrowly tailored federal guidelines and that a new standalone senior center facility with better parking, narrowly meets those guidelines. He continued to explain that this project is a part of a revitalization area strategy development and that he is looking for feedback on areas of Bryan County that should be focused on for revitalization.

Eric Van Otteren explained that CDGB grants are often used to improve infrastructure for areas of low or moderate income or areas labeled as slums or blighted. The citizens asked if broadband expansion or an aquatic facility and other quality of life items were available under this grant and Eric Van Otteren replied that it was not, but discussed other grants that may be available.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

  
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Lori Tyson, County Clerk

  
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Date