

CITY OF MACCLENNY
Public Hearing
April 9, 2013
6:00 p.m.

The City Commission met in a public hearing session prior to the regular meeting, Tuesday, April 9, 2013 with the following present: Mayor Gary Dopson, City Manager Gerald Dopson, Commissioners Tommy Johns, Dr. Richard Johnson and Floyd V. Bennett.

Mayor Dopson called the Public hearing session to order. Commissioner Bennett opened the meeting with prayer, followed by a pledge to the United States Flag.

Mayor Dopson opened the Public hearing and said it was a public hearing to give the citizens an opportunity to become acquainted with the proposal to make a loan application with the USDA rural Development for the purpose of constructing a new Fire Station. The meeting will allow for comments on such items as economic and environmental impacts, service area, alternatives to the project and other matters of concern. City Manager Dopson said we had been pursuing building a new fire station. We realized for some time due to the construction of our existing building and the problems we continue to encounter from a building code perspective, there is a definite need. The City wants to build something we can feel good about for our emergency management team. It can house them and facilitate their response time. We have been meeting with different financial agencies and reviewing what is the most economically feasible route for the City to pursue to get this done and fit within our budgetary appropriations. We want to make an application with USDA. We met with them and they have a low interest rate long term loan for rural communities. That doesn't mean in the long run the City will pursue this type of financing. He and the City Manager Select Phil Rhoden and Assistant City Manager Roger Yarborough had an opportunity to talk to Spencer Nabors, our grant consultant from In Touch Consulting, LLC, and there is a good possibility that we may qualify for a CDBG grant. He wanted to reiterate it is a possibility. He thought it would be very appropriate to pursue the grant. If we can qualify, he thinks it would be very appropriate and very likely that the City will pursue and try to minimize the interest we are paying and try to reduce the tenure of the loan as well as saving a significant amount of interest in the loan. USDA is asking us to go ahead and ask for the funds prior to their physical year ending so they don't have to send the funds back to Washington. Commissioner Johnson asked if we were replacing the current building in the same location. City Manager Dopson said yes. City Manager Dopson said Mr. Frank Darabi is our City Engineer and he has been asked to look at this plan and he can discuss what we are looking at structural wise and things. Mr. Frank Darabi said he was brought into the project about a month ago and he has been in conversations with USDA. If we don't have an application into them by the end of the fiscal year, the funding will be sent back to Washington. They demand a preliminary architecture report(PAR) along with the financial information. He has selected an architect that he has been working with and he has two sketches he would like to present. So far there is no cost to the City. Once you decide to go forward, there will be costs that will be eligible under the program but will come out of the City's pocket in case you decide to not go forward with the USDA loan but the information can be utilized with any program that the City pursues. He has been in contact with the staff and Fire Chief and looked at options. He presented the conceptual drawing with the reasoning behind the design. None of the detail was available. The preliminary architecture report is only what the project is overall, what components there are and what are the cost. Discussions followed with no apparent opposition to the fire station plans, the USDA loan application and pursuit of the CDBG grant. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to move forward with the proposal for the loan application to USDA. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor. The motion passed. City Manager Dopson recommended that the Board vote to authorize grants consultant, Spencer Nabors with ITC, LLC to pursue a CDBG grant for the structure of the fire station. There is no cost involved in making the application. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to authorize grants consultant, Spencer Nabors with ITC, LLC to pursue a CDBG grant for the structure of the fire station. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned

ATTEST:


CITY MANAGER/ CLERK PHIL RHODEN


MAYOR GARY DOPSON

