

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**City of Lewistown**

*Mayor Elmer R. Littlefield Jr., Presiding*

April 29, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

*Mayor:* Today is April 29, 2020, 2:00 p.m., at Lewistown City Hall (mention public attending via Zoom)

*Mayor:* This public hearing regarding the State of Illinois' Downstate Business Stabilization Program is called to order. Before we begin, I would ask that all individuals present please mute their phones or devices until it is time to speak.

*Mayor:* This public hearing is to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed Downstate Small Business Stabilization applications funded by Community Development Block Grant funds.

**ROLL CALL**

*Mayor:* A requirement of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is that the attendance of this meeting be documented. Because some in attendance today are attending remotely via Zoom, it may be a little challenging since we cannot see some of you and you may not be able to see us. Please momentarily unmute your phones and provide your name and address for the record as well as tell us if you are an elected official, business applicant or member of the public. I will ask our City Clerk, Ms. Cindy Goddard, to repeat the name and address of attendees as she takes attendance.

Madam Clerk, if you are ready we will start asking attendees to identify themselves.

*City Clerk takes attendance.*

*Mayor:* Thank you all for your attendance at this hearing is to provide interested parties, including the public, an opportunity to express their views on the proposed Downstate Small Business Stabilization applications funded by Community Development Block Grant funds. First, we wish to obtain citizens' opinions, suggestions and priorities regarding this program. The City of Lewistown also wishes to provide you with required program information and information regarding the related applications.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*Mayor:* Before we begin going through the applications, I would ask if there is any public comment. We will allow further opportunity for public comment for each business and at the end.

Is there any public comment before we begin? No public comments.

Page 2

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APPLICATIONS:

*Mayor:* Section 104(b)(3) of the Housing and Community Development Act outlines national objectives for the Community Development Block Grant program. The program has three main objectives: to benefit low- and moderate persons; to prevent or eliminate slums and blight; and meeting community development needs having a particular urgency, sometimes called “urgent need.” The program further outlines certain eligible and ineligible uses of funds. For the Downstate Business Stabilization Program, funds are restricted to working capital costs by for-profit businesses.

*Mayor:* In order for the Downstate Business Stabilization Grant to be an eligible use of these federal funds, it must meet one of the national objectives I just mentioned. In this case, the program meets the Urgent Need criteria as it is a response to the coronavirus pandemic. The State of Illinois has repurposed \$20 million of these federal funds into this program and will allocate grants of up to \$25,000 to assist businesses impacted by the pandemic throughout the state so long as they are in non-entitlement communities. If the grants are approved, the grant funds will initially be given to the City of Lewistown, prior to being disbursed to the business.

*Mayor:* The program must adhere to other federal requirements. None of the funds used will result in the involuntary displacement of people or businesses. Records regarding the project will be available to the public in the same manner as other documents kept by the City. Applications for assistance are available for public view at the office of the City Clerk during business hours (9am-4pm) (located at 119 South Adams, Lewistown, IL 61542), and online at [lewistownillinois.org](http://lewistownillinois.org).

*Mayor:* I will now begin going through each of the applications. **The total amount of the Community Development Block Grant Funds being requested pursuant to these applications is \$83,706.00.** I apologize in advance, as some of this will be repetitive.

**1) BEHR NECESSITIES CUSTOM CAKES AND COFFEES**

There is a total amount of \$20 million dollars available under this program.

The amount requested by Behr Necessities Custom Cakes and Coffees is \$8,706.00 to be used for working capital.

It is important to also note the other community development and housing needs of the City of Lewistown. We have developed a list of priorities which should help us focus our work. First, we should assist small businesses throughout the City of Lewistown that have been negatively impacted by this pandemic. Next, we should improve resources to help those same businesses, as well as our residents. We should also assist wherever possible individuals access social, financial and government services and other resources to recover from this crisis. We should develop a plan for the City of Lewistown and the larger region to build economic resiliency so that our businesses and citizens can withstand crises like this.

The scope of this project is to assist our small businesses in Lewistown as much as we can. The Amount Requested for this business, again, is \$8,706.00. In total, the City of Lewistown is applying for \$83,706.00 worth of the CDBG Funds for the Illinois Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program. These funds will be used for working capital for this business, which is facing an urgent need, due to the CORONAVIRUS pandemic and the economic effects caused thereby. Hopefully, these funds will assist not only this business and the residents of the City of Lewistown, but also the general economy of the City of Lewistown.

Is there any further public comment regarding the application pertaining to Behr Necessities Custom Cakes and Coffees? No public comments.

## **2) INDEPENDENT SHOPPERS, INC.**

There is a total amount of \$20 million dollars available under this program.

The amount requested by Independent Shoppers, Inc. is \$25,000.00 to be used for working capital.

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Is there any further public comment regarding the application pertaining to the Independent Shoppers, Inc.? No public comments.

### **3) LTR INCORPORATED DBA THE GARDEN RESTAURANT**

There is a total amount of \$20 million dollars available under this program.

The amount requested by LTR Incorporated DBA The Garden Restaurant is \$25,000.00 to be used for working capital.

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Is there any further public comment regarding the application pertaining to LTR Incorporated DBA The Garden Restaurant? No public comments.

#### **4) COUNTRYSIDE FAMILY RESTAURANT**

There is a total amount of \$20 million dollars available under this program.

The amount requested by Countryside Family Restaurant is \$25,000.00 to be used for working capital.

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Is there any further public comment regarding the application pertaining to Countryside Family Restaurant? No public comments.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Mayor:* I would now invite any members of our audience to comment on any of the matters discussed in this hearing. Again, as this is a conference call we would ask you to be patient as we try to hear from everyone who might have a comment. Please unmute your phone, state your name for the record and make your comment.

Page 6

Is there any public comment? Billie Simmons, public citizen, said this is great for the economy and glad the City of Lewistown was making an effort to do this.

Is there any further public comment? Nathan Collins, City of Lewistown Attorney, liked to thank the City of Canton and Chris Jump for their help with these applications.

Is there any further public comment? Mayor Elmer R. Littlefield would like to thank Mayor of Canton, Kent McDowell, Attorney Justin Jochums, Chris Jump, Attorney Nathan Collins and City Clerk Cindy Goddard for their help getting the applications done.

ADJOURNMENT

*Mayor:* Thank you all for your attendance at this hearing, which is now adjourned, at 2:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elmer R. Littlefield, Jr." written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Elmer R. Littlefield, Jr.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Goddard" written over a horizontal line.

Cindy Goddard, City Clerk

## **ATTENDANCE SHEET FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

### **CITY OF LEWISTOWN**

**April 29, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

- |                        |  |                            |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Nathan Collins      | 177 West Lincoln, Lewistown, IL 61542      | City of Lewistown Attorney |
| 2. Billie Simmons      | 13221 N. County Hwy 9, Lewistown, IL 61542 | Public Citizen             |
| 3. Elmer R Littlefield | 714 N. Elm, Lewistown, IL 61542            | Mayor of Lewistown         |
| 4. Cindy Goddard       | 813 East Ave. E. Lewistown, IL 61542       | City Clerk                 |