

SHARON CITY COUNCIL

Purpose: Public Hearing
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2009
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Location: Sharon Municipal Building Council Chambers

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL – PRESENT:

TIME: 6:55 P.M.

Council:

President Donato
Mr. Heutsche
Mr. Flower
Mr. Messina

Absent: Mr. Connelly - III

News Media:

Attorney Madden - City Solicitor
Mayor Robert J. Lucas
Sharronda Faber – City Clerk

Matt Snyder – The Herald

Dept. Heads:

Terry Whalen - Fire Chief
Michael J. Menster - Chief of Police
Joseph Fragle - Community Development
John Cave - Street Dept.

Also Present:

Kenny King
Debra Lasher
Sgt James Masotto
Ron Maurice
Robert Thornburg
Carol Swartz

Brian Clepper
Julie Buckley
Phillip Nespor
David Kepics
Rol Curry
Henry Przewodowski

LEGAL NOTICE – Read by City Clerk: *The City of Sharon will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Sharon Municipal Building, 155 West Connelly Blvd., Sharon, PA, to present the City of Sharon's Five Year Consolidated Plan for FY2010 – 2014 for its housing and community development needs, and the FY2010 Annual Action Plan for the use of CDBG funds.*

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed use of CDBG funds under the 2010 Action Plan and the Five Year Consolidated plan for FY2010-2014 and to receive citizens' input.

Presentation by Community Development Director Joseph F. Fragle – Mr. Fragle explained the

Annual Plan and the Five Year Plans. Discussed that 70% of the funding has to be spent on low-moderate income residents. Mr. Messina inquired about the “side yard” program. Asked if it would be possible for neighbors to buy lots and take care of them. Mr. Fragle advised that his department is working on a program and stated that it is expensive for the City to maintain vacant lots. However, he discussed the current economy and that it is difficult for people right now to buy property. Mayor Lucas inquired if curbing could be done with some of the funds. Mr. Fragle advised that yes – for replacement or repair. Henry Przewodowski, 1019 Griswold St., inquired about the amount of money available for programs. Mr. Fragle advised that there is approximately \$3.5-4 million per year. Of that approx. \$700,000 is from HUD to help low-moderate income residents. Inquired about eligibility requirements. Mr. Fragle suggested that anyone interested come to his office and talk to him. The application also shows the income guidelines. Inquired about who contracts with. Mr. Fragle advised that it goes out for bid and the bid is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. James Masotto inquired if the money could be used to demo houses. Mr. Fragle advised that houses could go on the demo list automatically if they pose a fire hazard or are rat-infested. He advised that they had \$30,000 available in 2008 and \$60,000 in 2009 for demolitions. Rol Curry, 492 S. Oakland Ave., asked about the number of demos per year. Mr. Fragle advised that they are able to demo about 50-60 per year. Discussion held about liens on houses. Mr. Donato inquired about how they determine testing of homes for lead-based paint. Mr. Fragle advised that they receive applications and that the cost per house is about \$15-20,000. Mr. Fragle announced that a gentleman on S. Oakland Avenue has donated a house to the Redevelopment Authority for \$1.00. The Redevelopment Authority will acquire it and use it as temporary housing for residents when lead-based paint work is being done to their homes. Carol Swartz inquired how people get money to fix up “run down” houses. Mr. Fragle advised that his department has been passing out leaflets to promote awareness. He advised that people need to apply for the program and meet the eligibility guidelines. She asked if there was a list of properties yet to be demolished in 2009. Mr. Fragle advised that the list has been published twice in the Herald. Discussion held on a problem with red lights covered with trash bags. Mayor Lucas advised that the signals at Irvine/Davis and Sharpville/Silver have been given the okay to remove the lights and put in permanent stop signs. The City will remove the old lights soon. Mayor Lucas announced that LED lights will be installed soon throughout the City and that John Cave is working with PennDOT on the agility program. Henry Przewodowski inquired if there is any concerted effort to target certain areas or plans to renovate to give a better appearance. Mr. Fragle advised that the funding is available on a first come, first serve basis. Mr. Przewodowski suggested that a committee be formed to look at improving areas of the City. Mayor Lucas advised that there is a new committee formed under Home Rule (Sharon Community & Economic Development Committee) that is looking to do that. Rol Curry inquired about the number of houses being rehabbed. Mr. Fragle advised approximately 32. Kenneth King, 1024 Griswold Ave., discussed problems with a neighboring house and code issues. He advised that a neighbor’s garage is falling down. Mayor Lucas discussed the garage with Mr. King and made arrangements to look at it. Mr. King talked about a problem with a storm drain on Wengler Ave. Mr. Fragle advised that he would contact Mr. King on Friday about it.

<u>COMMENTS:</u>

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Heutsche

Second: Mr. Flower

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Flower
Yes - Mr. Messina**

**Yes - Mr. Heutsche
Yes - Mr. Donato**

ATTEST:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK