



City of Falls City

299 Mill St • Falls City, Oregon • 97344
Ph. (503) 787-3631 • www.fallscityoregon.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE: Special City Council Meeting

Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 **Time:** 6:00 pm

Location: Telephone, Web Application, in writing

How to Attend and/or Participate:

1. **Call-in:**
 - a. 1-253-215-8782
 - b. Meeting ID: 918 7698 2425
 - c. Passcode: 998762
 - d. You will be muted but may “raise your hand” to indicate you wish to comment.
2. **Web Application: Zoom**
3. <https://zoom.us/j/91876982425?pwd=K1EzNkw5OTNlRVpyNVZnQldncE94QT09>
 - a. Meeting ID: 918 7698 2425
 - b. Passcode: 998762
 - c. You will be muted, but may “raise your hand” to indicate you wish to comment.
4. **Write-In:** Using regular mail or email.
 - a. info@fallscityoregon.gov; 299 Mill St. Falls City, OR 97344

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AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Jeremy Gordon, Mayor ___ Dennis Sickles ___ Lori Jean Sickles ___

Jennifer Drill ___ Tony Meier ___ Amy Houghtaling ___ TJ Bailey ___

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MOTION TO ADOPT THE ENTIRE AGENDA

4. GOOD OF THE ORDER

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Public Hearing: Resolution 05-2021 CDBG Community Development Block Grant Package to fund required assessments for USDA Rural Development’s funding package for the construction of a ne city wastewater facility.

- i. SR Interim Funding for Wastewater Facility -----pg. 1-2

- ii. Resolution 05-2021-----pg. 3
- iii. Public Hearing Notice -----pg. 4
- b. SR 2021 Travel Oregon Grant Application-----pg. 5
 - i. Resolution 06-202-----pg. 6
 - ii. Travel Oregon Grant Program Description-----pg. 7-8

6. ADJOURN

STAFF REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR, AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER, AJ FOSCOLI
SUBJECT: INTERIM FUNDING FOR WASTEWATER FACILITY
DATE: 3/29/2021

SUMMARY

Council Approval of Interim Funding from Business Oregon as part of the USDA Rural Development's funding of the City's new wastewater facility.

BACKGROUND

The City was awarded HUD funds in the form of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for approximately \$330,000 to complete the design, engineer, and environmental on a new wastewater treatment facility.

The new facility is projected to cost an additional \$4.1 million (on top of the \$330,000 mentioned), and the remaining HUD/CDBG funds available to the city total approximately \$2.17 million. This leaves a gap of approximately \$1.9 million that the city must account for in order to build the new facility.

In June the City Manager, Mayor, the City's contract engineer, and contract environmental specialist attended a "one stop" meeting to discuss and lay out the available funding packages.

At the July special meeting, the funding scenarios were presented to the City Council who then directed staff to draft this resolution naming the USDA Rural Development program as the preferred funding source.

Since that time, the interim City Manager and the new City Manager have continued to work through the complex federal bureaucratic funding process laid out by USDA. As was expected, several biological, environmental, and cultural assessments have been triggered that come with a cost that needs to be pre-paid in order to access the overall USDA funding package ("pay to play"). These costs will eventually be absorbed by the USDA funding package at the construction stage but need to be accounted for and paid at this interim stage.

Upon further discussions with the various organizations that have been supporting Falls City through their work in securing funding through the USDA Rural Development program, it has become apparent that the costs to pre-pay for that funding package may increase beyond what the Business Oregon loan/grant program may be able to cover. It has been made clear that applying for an additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will be more advantageous for the city of Falls City, as the city would most likely qualify and thus reduce the amount of moneys that the city would have to repay in the future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This resolution 05-2021 would give the City Manager the authority to apply for and accept an additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$120,000.

STAFF RECCOMENDATION

Adopt.

EXHIBIT

A- Resolution 05-2021

PROPOSED MOTIONS

I move that the City Council of Falls City adopt Resolution 05-2021, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, RECEIVE AND ADMINISTER AN ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PACKAGE TO FUND REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS FOR USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S FUNDING PACKAGE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CITY WASTEWATER FACILITY.

RESOLUTION 05-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, RECEIVE AND ADMINISTER AN ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK (CDBG) GRANT PACKAGE TO FUND REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS FOR USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S FUNDING PACKAGE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CITY WASTEWATER FACILITY.

Whereas:

1. The City's new wastewater facility is estimated at \$4.1 million to construct; and
2. The City is only eligible for approximately \$2.17 million in CDBG/HUD grant funding; and
3. USDA Rural Development has a grant and loan program that could cover the approximately \$2 million gap in funding; and
4. The City Council reviewed the various funding options and determined USDA Rural Development to be the most advantageous to the City; and
5. The City applied for and received access to USDA Rural Development funding that triggered several prerequisite assessments that need to be prepaid before the disbursement of the \$2 million gap in funding; and
6. In order to apply for and accept the Community Development Block Grant program, the City Council must approve city staff applying, by resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF FALLS CITY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to apply for, take award, and administer all portions of a Business Oregon loan/grant purposed to fund the prerequisite assessments for USDA's gap in construction funding for the city's new wastewater facility.

- a. The City Manager shall have signature authority for all portions of the grant application, award, and expenditure.

Section 2. Effective Date.

1. This resolution becomes effective upon passage.

ADOPTED BY THE FALLS CITY COUNCIL ON THIS 29th DAY OF MARCH 2021.

VOTE: AYE____ NAY____ ABSTAIN____ ABSENT____

Signed:

Jeremy Gordon, Mayor

Date

Attest:

Jamie Ward, City Recorder

Date

Public Notice and Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Falls City is eligible to apply for a 2021 Community Development Block Grant from the Oregon Business Development Department. Community Development Block Grant funds come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grants can be used for public facilities and housing improvements, primarily for persons with low and moderate incomes.

Approximately \$12 million will be awarded to Oregon non-metropolitan cities and counties in 2021. The maximum grant that a city or county can receive is \$2,500,000.

The City of Falls City is preparing an application for a 2021 Community Development Block Grant from the Oregon Business Development Department for Wastewater system improvements project in order to upgrade the system and address serious compliance issues within the City of Falls City, Polk County, Oregon. It is estimated that the proposed project will benefit at least 500 persons, of whom 53.77% will be low or moderate income.

A public hearing will be held by the **Falls City Council at 6:00 pm on the 29th of March 2021** via Zoom. The link and phone number are on the City of Falls City website at www.fallscityoregon.gov. The purpose of this hearing is for the City Council to obtain citizen views and to respond to questions and comments about: community development and housing needs, especially the needs of low- and moderate-income persons, as well as other needs in the community that might be assisted with a Community Development Block Grant project; and the proposed project.

Written comments are also welcome and must be received by **March 29, 2021 at Falls City, City Hall, 299 Mill Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344**. Both oral and written comments will be considered by the City Council in deciding whether to apply.

The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact **Jamie Ward at 503-787-3631** if you will need any special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting.

More information about Oregon Community Development Block Grants, the proposed project, and records about the City's past use of Community Development Block Grant funds is available for public review at City Hall during regular office hours. Advance notice is requested. If special accommodations are needed, please notify **Jamie Ward at 503-787-3631** so that appropriate assistance can be provided.

Permanent involuntary displacement of persons or businesses is not anticipated as a result from the proposed project. If displacement becomes necessary, alternatives will be examined to minimize the displacement and provide required/reasonable benefits to those displaced. Any low- and moderate-income housing which is demolished or converted to another use will be replaced.

STAFF REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR, AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER, AJ FOSCOLI
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OREGON COMPETITIVE & RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM
DATE: 3/29/2021

SUMMARY

Council Approval of approval to apply for Travel Oregon's Competitive & Recovery Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

The City has been working on becoming more financially stable through the pursuit of as-of-yet explored opportunities to establish Falls City as a tourism destination.

Travel Oregon's Competitive & Recovery Grants Program will allow the city to apply for up to \$100,000 without any match to build treehouses in George Kitchin Park to enhance Falls City's tourism-facing impression as a travel destination, as well as to generate overnight stay revenue.

In exploring the idea of creating such tourism facilities with several Travel Oregon representatives, the application has a strong chance of consideration. Though this does not guarantee acceptance of the city's proposal, it does encourage staff that the direction that the city has undertaken to elevate Falls City's tourism-facing impression as a travel destination is the correct one.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This resolution 06-2021 would give the City Manager the authority to apply for and accept Travel Oregon's Competitive & Recovery Grants Program for \$100,000 (no match required).

STAFF RECCOMENDATION

Adopt.

EXHIBIT

A- Resolution 06-2021

B- Travel Oregon's Competitive & Recovery Grants Program Information

PROPOSED MOTIONS

I move that the City Council of Falls City adopt Resolution 06-2021, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE TRAVEL OREGON'S COMPETITIVE & RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM.

RESOLUTION 06-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE TRAVEL OREGON'S COMPETITIVE & RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM.

Whereas:

- 1. The City Council has been discussing tourism enhancing opportunities; and
- 2. The City has been pursuing strategies to enhance Falls City's tourism-facing impression as a travel destination; and
- 3. Travel Oregon has a grant program that could cover \$100,000 in tourism funding; and
- 4. Falls City owned and run tourism facilities would generate revenue to support the city's finite budget; and
- 5. In order to apply for and accept Travel Oregon's Competitive & Recovery Grants program, the City Council must approve city staff applying, by resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF FALLS CITY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to apply for and take award of Travel Oregon's Competitive & Recovery Grants program.

- a. The City Manager shall have signature authority for all portions of the grant application, award, and expenditure.

Section 2. Effective Date.

- 1. This resolution becomes effective upon passage.

ADOPTED BY THE FALLS CITY COUNCIL ON THIS 29th DAY OF MARCH 2021.

VOTE: AYE____ NAY____ ABSTAIN____ ABSENT____

Signed:

Jeremy Gordon, Mayor

Date

Attest:

Jamie Ward, City Recorder

Date

Competitive & Recovery Grants Program

The application process opened on March 15. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m., March 31.

The mission of Travel Oregon is to inspire travel that drives community enhancement and economic development. Through innovation and partnerships, we share the stories of Oregon's people and places, deliver world-class experiences, strengthen the industry, work to ensure all travelers feel welcome and preserve Oregon's way of life and its natural places. As we enter the peak visitor season amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, recommendations from state and federal public health officials continue to affirm that, in addition to protocols like wearing a face cover and maintaining physical distance, in social settings it is better to spend time outdoors rather than indoors.

Travel Oregon believes improved infrastructure is needed to enhance and expand the visitor experience over both the short and long-term and that these enhancements can help in economic recovery efforts.

Total funding available for the Competitive & Recovery Grants program is \$2.3 million. Requests up to \$100,000 will be accepted, depending on project type. No cash match is required. Projects must be completed by Nov. 30, 2021.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include those listed below that are doing business in Oregon and can demonstrate direct work in support of improving the economic impacts of Oregon's travel and tourism industry:

- Local government
- Port districts
- Federally-recognized tribes
- Non-profit entities registered with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office
- Oregon-based tour operators, guides and outfitters

Project Eligibility

Eligible projects must be focused on the infrastructure needed to create or provide a COVID-19 appropriate visitor experience. Project categories include:

Outdoor Recreation

Eligible projects include:

Exhibit B

- Trail development and improvements (includes wayfinding/signage/kiosks).
- Recreation site improvements and stewardship (includes wayfinding/signage/kiosks).
- Water recreation (includes access points/wayfinding/mile markers/signage).
- Cycling infrastructure (includes repair stations, restrooms, seating)
- Garbage/waste management solutions.
- Parking/transportation strategies and solutions.

Business District/Main Street

Eligible projects include:

- Creation of outdoor public spaces for people to sit, eat, drink and patronize businesses safely, and following state guidelines.
- Wayfinding enhancements.
- Clean-up/beautification in a business district.

Ticketed/Paid Events and Attractions

Eligible projects include:

- Online ticketing systems.
- Virtual streaming.
- Hand-washing stations.
- Restroom facilities.
- Amenities for outdoor programming.
- Wayfinding/interpretive signage.

Tour Operators/Guides/Outfitters

Eligible projects include:

- Configuration of vehicles/watercraft to maximize spacing.
- Safety placards or messaging.
- New or existing enhancements to online booking technology.
- Personal protective equipment.

Award Decision

The application process is open from 8 a.m. PST on Mar. 15 until 5 p.m. PST on Mar. 31. No applications or materials will be accepted after the 5 p.m. PST deadline. Award decisions will be announced by April 30 via email. Applications will be reviewed and decisions to award will be made based on the following:

- Demonstrates an immediate need for the project.

Exhibit B

- Demonstrates the ability to complete the project in the required timeline (by Nov. 30, 2021).
- Demonstrates that applicant and project meet the eligibility requirements of Section II and Section III and that the application is complete and contains all information required by these grant guidelines.
- Preference given to projects that demonstrate they ensure accessibility and inclusion of all visitors, including under-represented communities.
- Preference given to entities with required permitting (if needed) secured.

Travel Oregon reserves the right to award grants in amounts totaling less than all funds that are available under the Competitive & Recovery Grants Program, to award a different amount than is requested in a grant application, to make changes to the Grant Guidelines or to cancel the Competitive & Recovery Grants Program in its entirety.