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**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**December 15, 2022 9:00 AM**

**The meeting was held virtually via Zoom**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Brown called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Council Members Brown, Blount, and Route for the entire meeting. Council Member McBryde joined for a part of the meeting. Also in attendance were Town Treasurer Tinelli and Town Clerk Charnovich.

**SPECIAL MEETING TOPICS:**

**ARPA Funding Discussion**

**Bladensburg Business and Non-Profit funding allocation**

Discussion was held surrounding the number of businesses in Bladensburg, which was identified as an estimated number of 180.

It was discussed what businesses and non-profits would be eligible for the program.

Council Member Route stated that she feels the businesses and non-profits should be legally based in Bladensburg. This would include an applicant submitting a tax return or a 990 to show where the entity is legally established.

Application components were discussed. It was determined that the housing assistance application would be tweaked for businesses and non-profits.

Council Member Route asked if the application should include if a business received any other type of business COVID relief.

An amount per business was discussed if a flat amount was decided. Mr. Tinelli indicated that the current total amount budgeted for businesses and non-profits within the ARPA spending category is \$50,000. Mr. Tinelli suggested the Town consider contracting with a third party to manage a business and non-profit assistance program. Mr. Tinelli indicated that a bit of investigative work needs done to make sure a business/non-profit is in good standing.

It was determined that a different list exists for the number of non-profits in Bladensburg vs. the number of private businesses.

It was discussed whether this would be a competitive funding process or a flat amount provided to the businesses and non-profits.

It was determined that a legal business entity in Bladensburg would be eligible even if behind in property taxes.

Mr. Tinelli asked if the Town would be looking at the size of the business based on the number of employees.

Mr. Charnovich suggested a tiered approach for each business/non-profit based on certain threshold criteria.

The Council asked Mr. Tinelli to provide a tiers recommendation based on the number of employees.

The Council discussed the following summary points:

- Finalize the application to be provided to the businesses and non-profits
- Proof of legal entity
- Size of business
- Possibly use a tiered approach
- Possibly send out a postcard teaser

It was determined that when the business and non-profit list is scrubbed that it includes as many current businesses and non-profits as possible.

Council Member Route asked that community grants could be looked at further for non-profits that serve residents but don't legally reside in Bladensburg.

Mr. Tinelli would follow up with Mr. Rinehart about an idea of the number of employees for businesses in Bladensburg.

It was determined that an internal tiered approach would be created up to a certain max amount.

It was determined that a postcard would be designed for the businesses and a draft application would be created by the January 9, 2023 Council Meeting.

Mr. Tinelli outlined what good standing is for private businesses vs. non-profits.

It was determined that the final tiers would still be determined whether it would be 3 tiers, 2 tiers, or just a flat 1 tier.

Council Member Route asked if Mr. Tinelli could look in the operating budget where to add some funding for community grants for non-profits that are not legally based in Bladensburg, but serve the Bladensburg community.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Route to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Council Member Blount. The motion passed 3-0.

DRAFT

