

CITY COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

May 7, 2019

6:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Chilton, Estrop, Rue and President Copeland. City Manager Heck, Assistant City Manager Franzen, and Assistant Law Director Allen.

ABSENT: Commissioner O'Neill.

GUEST: NOPEC Special Projects Manager Horwitz.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:

Topics discussed at the work session held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, were:

1. Assistant City Manager Franzen and Assistant Law Director Allen along with NOPEC Special Projects Manager Horwitz presented information related to a PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Grant and STEP (Savings Through Efficiency Program). Mr. Franzen explained the programs are aligned with the Commission's adopted goals related to Economic Development and alternative energy sources. The city's electric aggregation is with Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) who offer these programs.

Mrs. Horwitz described the PACE and STEP Programs as types of financing for energy efficiency projects which can include lighting, heating and air conditioning, solar arrays, and others for commercial properties. The financing can be up to 100% and transferrable to the next owner. Commercial properties include private, public, non-profit, and multi-family residential with five more units provided they are NOPEC customers with no application fees.

Mrs. Horwitz reviewed the process to establish an ESID (Energy Special Improvement District) which must be formed prior to PACE and STEP programs. The City Commission must legislate the ESID and designate the area in which properties are eligible for the programs.

Mrs. Allen stated the ESID are authorized through the Ohio Revised Code and are also located in many communities in Ohio. PACE and STEP program applicants may file with the City, and the city can create a district with a board to approve the projects.

Dr. Estrop asked if a business could open in an empty building within a district and use the program to offset costs while remodeling. Mrs. Horwitz stated improvements to the energy efficiency of a building is permitted.

Dr. Estrop asked if the City of Springfield would be eligible, and Mrs. Horwitz replied yes. Dr. Estrop asked if a vacant property owned by the city could be used for a solar array to offset the expense for street lights. Mrs. Horwitz replied that she would check on the eligibility of this type of project.

Mrs. Chilton asked for the application process for a commercial property owner, and Mrs. Horwitz reviewed the entire process which can be found on the NOPEC website at www.nopecinfo.org. The Springfield City Manager's Office will have the application information also.

Mrs. Chilton asked who is financially responsible for the required energy audit for a project. Mrs. Horwitz replied the client is responsible for the fees which may be reimbursed as part of the project.

Dr. Estrop asked if a residential program is available. Mrs. Horwitz stated there is not at this time. Mrs. Allen added that residential ESIDs are not favorable on a federal level due to foreclosures on residential properties.


2. On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the meeting adjourned.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. Rue and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 4, Nays 0.

Adj. 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill R. Pierce
Clerk of the City Commission