

**TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 25, 2023  
GoToMeeting**

Mayor Paulin called the Public Hearing to order at 2:30 p.m. Those in attendance were:

Brandon Paulin, Mayor  
Ron Sitoula, Vice Mayor  
Cassandra Grumbine, Councilwoman  
Ryan Hicks, Town Manager  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk

**NUMBER OF CITIZENS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: 0**

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to obtain the views of citizens on community and economic development projects to be considered for submission in an application to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). During this hearing residents will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed project and to provide input on other needs to be considered. The draft application has been available at the Town Hall for public review since December 27, 2022, and it was posted on the Town's website.

Mayor Paulin explained that the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is a federally funded program designed to assist governments with activities directed toward neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services. It is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Maryland CDBG Program reflects the State's economic and community development priorities and provides public funds for activities which meet one of the national objectives in accordance with the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The national objectives are to benefit low and moderate income persons and households, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and to meet other community development needs of an urgent nature, or that are an immediate threat to community health and welfare.

Mayor Paulin reviewed the amount of CDBG funds available for State Fiscal Year 2023.

Mayor Paulin discussed the range of activities that may be undertaken with the CDBG funds and discussed the proposed project under consideration by the Town. The proposed project is the Oasis Grocery which will act as an economic development engine as well as a community project providing fresh food and vegetables to all.

Mayor Paulin made a motion to open the floor to public comment Vice Mayor Sitoula seconds the motion. All in favor. The floor was opened to public comment.

As advertised in the public notice published in the Southern Maryland News on January 13<sup>th</sup>, any resident who was unable to attend the virtual hearing was given the opportunity to submit comment via email or in person to Town Clerk Brady by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Town Clerk Brady did not receive any public comment prior to this afternoon's hearing.

There being no one in attendance there was no public comment.

Mayor Paulin made a motion to close the floor to public comment Councilwoman Grumbine seconds the motion. All in favor. The floor was closed to public comment and the Council moved into Council discussion.

Mayor Paulin asked if there was any further Town Council discussion at this time. This topic was discussed at previous work sessions and Town meetings.

With the conclusion of Council discussion, Mayor Paulin made a motion to move forward with the CDBG application. Councilwoman Grumbine seconds the motion. The motion was passed by voice vote, 2-Ayes, 1-Nay.

Mayor Paulin closed the public hearing and adjourned at 2:35pm



Andrea Brady  
Town Clerk