

City of Oconomowoc
Special Utility Committee Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2020

Alderman Kowieski called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

Members Present: Aids. Kowieski, Zapfel and Mulder

Staff Present: Kevin Freber, Scott Osborn, John Schuh, Joe Pickart, Ellen Schmidt, Laurie Sullivan, Jim Pfister, Jason Gallo and Tina Wallace

Others Present: Mayor Magnus, Aids. Schellpeper, Rosek, Spiegelberg and Ellis

3a. Consider/act on COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program: Pickart reported that WPPI Energy divvied up \$500,000 amongst 51 members to assist in Covid-19 relief as part of a grant. Oconomowoc Utilities received \$23,500 and is adding \$500 to provide a total of \$24,000 to Economic Development and Oconomowoc Responds for reimbursement to area small businesses. Pickart stated he is looking for a decision from Council to assist with the amount that we would like to give and what are the deciding factors on who gets the funds. Duffy has created an outline and application. Members discussed the dollar amount, which body should determine the award and what the criteria is and deadline. Pickart stated the deadline for disbursement is the end of the year, however with the program Duffy outlined, WPPI stated they will give the funds to Oconomowoc Utilities to be put into a fund to be used going into next year. Members agreed that they would like to look at direct business relief and other non-profits within our area that could disburse based on an established engagement policy that's already in place that maybe insufficiently funded based on the need. Members agreed to amend the application to include non-profit and have Duffy, Pickart and the Chair go through the applications and decide who gets them and a grant amount not to exceed \$5,000. The criteria should include that they weren't in arears prior to the COVID crisis. Members agreed to have Kowieski work with Duffy and Pickart and report back to the committee.

Motion by Mulder to approve that the grant be available for businesses as stipulated in our grant proposal for up to \$5,000 per submission and that we go first come first serve based on as long as they meet the criteria that was spelled out; second by Zapfel. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Adjourn: Motion made by Zapfel to adjourn at 6:07 pm; second by Mulder. Motion carried 3-0.

Tina Wallace, Deputy City Clerk