

Mayor Futcher opened the Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Those Councilmembers in attendance were: Futcher, Archer, Roberson, Schimmel, Myers, McDaniel and Lefebvre.

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG Funds for Replacement and Rehabilitation of Sewers

Mayor Futcher opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m. Community Development Block Grant Program Public Hearing handouts were available to the general public in English and Spanish. Mayor Futcher invited citizens to comment. There being no discussion, Mayor Futcher closed the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.

MOTION ITEM:

Resolution No. 13-1077 CDBG General Purpose Grant Funds : The Deputy Clerk read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Roberson, seconded by Councilmember Lefebvre, 'pass Resolution No. 13-1077, 'A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KELSO AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR CDBG FUNDS,' motion carried, all voting yes.

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

Lodging Tax Funding & Visitors Center Options

Lodging Tax Committee Members Present: Syed Pasha, Paul Thornton, Bill Marchum, and Todd McDaniel

City Staff Present: City Manager Steve Taylor, Public Works Director David Sypher, Finance Director Brian Butterfield, and Sherri Booth.

City Manager Steve Taylor summarized the necessity to evaluate the merits of replacing and operating the Visitors Center. He stated the following four options available for discussion.

- 1) Replace the Visitors Center with new, improved structure, signage and landscaping.
- 2) Do not replace Visitors Center. Find alternative marketing outlets to promote Kelso Tourism.
- 3) Remove the Visitors Center. Study options with the possibility of replacing structure.
- 4) Move the Visitors Center to a new location. (current City-owned building)

Committee Member Comments:

Syed Pasha spoke in favor of replacement of the Visitors Center with a new structure, signage, and landscaping at the current location.

Bill Thornton spoke regarding alternative use of Lodging Tax funds.

Bill Marcum spoke in favor of replacement of the Visitors Center with a new structure at the current location.

Todd McDaniel spoke in favor of the replacement of the Visitors Center with a new structure at the current location.

Cindy Keeney: Mr. Taylor provided comments from Cindy Keeney in her absence.

General Public Comments:

Rick Von Rock, 400 N. 7th, spoke in favor of the Visitors Center

Jim Hill, 1100 N. 22nd, spoke against the Visitors Center. He provided information and handouts about interactive kiosks.

Larry Alexander, 1517 N. 3rd, spoke in favor of the Visitors Center.

Scott DeRosier, 100 Jones Ct, spoke against the Visitors Center. Stating a Sports Commissioner would be a better use of funding.

Bill Cash, Longview, spoke in favor of the Visitors Center.

Lengthy discussion followed. Council consensus was to move forward with the replacement of the Visitors Center with a new improved structure.

There being no further business, Mayor Fatcher adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.



MAYOR



CITY CLERK