

A work session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 5:30pm on Monday, July 6, 2020 in the Council Chambers by Mayor Kiewiet. Present: Stefl, Kuester, Miller, Grineski and Hamann. Absent: None.

Hamann moved and Stefl seconded the approval of the meeting agenda with no conflicts of interest noted. Motion carried five ayes.

Mayor Kiewiet opened discussion on the BIG (Business Innovation Grant) Grant Program. Kiewiet expressed concerns with the BIG Grant Committee, currently only three members. Kiewiet asked if Council feels the need to fill the vacant seats on the BIG Grant Committee since applications are ultimately approved by City Council. Kuester and Grineski commented concerns that applications are being turned down at the Committee level and not coming to Council to review. These denied applications are what Council is being questioned on. Kiewiet asked that the application be sent to Council members directly to review then many questions can be asked prior to the final review of the resolution.

Mayor Kiewiet then opened discussion on restructuring the funding of BIG Grant Program. The BIG Grant Program is currently funded with \$65,000 of local option sales tax receipts placed into the Community Betterment Fund. Kiewiet explained that the last few years not all the budgeted funds have been awarded for grants. Kiewiet asked if the Council felt these funds should be used for other projects through the community, such as a rental/residential housing (not owner occupied) rehabilitation program, dilapidated and deteriorated property program, city parks, etc. Miller mentioned a sidewalk rehabilitation program. Hamann mentioned he felt the BIG Grant Program has done great things for many building/businesses in the community and without it many of the projects may not have happened. Hamann also commented that a residential rehabilitation program is a great idea. Stefl commented that BIG Grant Program needs to continue for business growth and recruitment, however spreading funding to a rental/residential properties is good suggestion. Kiewiet commented that other communities currently have rental rehabilitation programs that cover electrical, plumbing, cosmetic upgrades, windows, flooring, HVAC, insulation etc. Stefl mentioned a lien on the property similar to the current BIG Grant Program will be a necessity. Discussion led to reducing the BIG Grant program funding to \$45,000 and adding \$20,000 to a Rental Rehabilitation Program. No formal taken at this time, more discussion on next Council meeting.

Kuester moved and Stefl seconded adjournment of the work session at 6:27pm. Motion carried five ayes.

Al Kiewiet, Mayor

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk