

City of White Sulphur Springs Public Hearing

February 25, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. at City Hall

Mayor Nelson opened the meeting with all those present reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag. He then introduced city engineer, Terry Threkeld. Terry stated that one of the reasons for the public hearing is that CDBG says that the growth policy could possibly be substituted with two public hearings. This will be our first public hearing to discuss our needs assessment to find out what is good for the community, what things we would like to see changed in the community and what improvements could be made. Tonight we don't have a project that we are submitting a grant application for. We qualified financially through the Income Survey the city took in October 2018. Another pot of money that we could get into competition for is federally funded. The allocation for Montana is 6 to 7 million dollars. The maximum grant amount is \$450,000.00 and we would have to come up with 25% of it. Eligible projects could be public housing, housing assistance, economic development projects or infrastructure. The CDBG is one of the tools for funding. They might put in for a DNRC grant, TSEP grant, and CDBG grant. Terry suggested going around the room and having each person tell what they think are the strengths and positive things about living here in White Sulphur Springs.

Positive Things:

Most like the small-town atmosphere where people are nice and there are many recreational opportunities available. Terry noted that since 2009 the city has rebuilt the waste water treatment plant, lined the sewer line on Main Street, replaced the water main on Main Street, built a new reservoir, and rebuilt the sand filter. In less than ten years White Sulphur has replaced almost all of its major infrastructure. Some would like to see zoning and subdivisions in place with land use regulations to protect home owners. There are several old unused buildings in town that should be torn down and replaced with new structures to make it more appealing. More single level housing is needed for our seniors and additional low income housing. The city Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, and EMT's do a very good job as well as the volunteers that serve in the community. The city crew also does a very good job with snow removal, maintaining the streets and all the other things they do for the city.

Things to change:

There are several run down and deteriorating buildings in town that need to be torn down and replaced with something new. It would be good if our younger generation would get more involved with the city so they will be able to replace the older generation when they move on. Funding for the city is a very important issue. Terry would like to see White Sulphur apply every year. The CIP's must be put in for very early in order to get them. They are needed to help with replacement costs for repairs to water/sewer lines and streets. When streets need to be fixed they have to be torn up. Eventually it's almost to the point that we can't patch them anymore. We need good material which costs lots of money. Our biggest problem is lack of communication between the city and the county. There are two governments seeing things differently. TSEP funds for example involve both the city and the county. We need to work together for the betterment of the community.

