

NITRO COUNCIL APPROVES GRANTS FOR CITY PROJECTS

Publication: CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL
Published: Wednesday, August 18, 2010
Page: 9A
Byline: MARY CHILDRESS FOR THE DAILY MAIL

NITRO - Nitro City Council approved resolutions seeking federal grants for two planning projects at Tuesday night's meeting.

One is a comprehensive master plan for the city and the other is an additional Streetscape plan.

The grants total \$225,000 - \$100,000 for the Streetscape plan and \$125,000 for the city master plan.

At the meeting, it was also pointed out that completion of the comprehensive master plan would meet requirements of a state law that requires all cities in the state to have a master plan in effect by 2014.

"The future of this town will ride on these two vehicles," said councilman Jim McKay. "Where do you want to be in the next 10 to 15 years? This master plan for the city will keep us on track. It's vital for us to do this tonight."

"This is a first-time grant due to federal stimulus funds," said Todd Schoolcraft, with Baker Engineering.

The grants have to be applied for by Monday, he added. Council will learn whether they received the grants in October.

Baker Engineering, along with GAI and Triad engineering firms will meet with city council at 10 a.m. Monday in council chambers to discuss the development of the city's comprehensive master plan. Council will decide which firm will be awarded the project at a later date.

Councilman Dave Casebolt felt that by having three firms to interview, the city could be able to negotiate with one firm to do both projects.

In other business, Roger Hughes with the State Treasurer's office spoke to council members about the state's 457 Supplemental Retirement program.

Mayor Rusty Casto said he would like to do something for city employees, especially members of the city's fire and police departments, and Hughes said the city matching contributions to an employee's 457 plan would be a good way to help.

"This type of plan would not cost the city an arm and a leg," he said. "We could easily work out something that suits the city's needs. And it's all administered by the state treasurer's office."

City treasurer John Young said council would have to vote to add matching contributions.

Council decided to take it under advisement and discuss it again at a later date.

Casto also informed council that city hall needed a new roof.

"We have four or five leaks coming through every time it rains," he said. Council voted to seek bids to repair or replace the roof.

Casto also showed council a bill he received for plaques that were put up at the city's pool.

"This bill is dated 2004. It's six years old," the mayor said. "We need to find out if it's legitimate and why in the world did this firm wait six years to send it?"

Young said he would check through the financial records and see if it's already been paid.

"I guess that will be OK," the mayor added. "After all if they waited six years to send us a bill, they can wait a few weeks to get their money."