City of Torrington

ARPA funded, Community Grants Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 @8 am

City Hall, Room 311

1. Roll Call

Committee Members present: Mayor Elinor Carbone, Anne Ruwett, Laurene Pesce, John Kissko, Casey McKenna, Molly Spino

Others Present: Rista Malanca, Economic Development Director

1. Community Impact Grants and Partnership Projects (Community Impact Program)
   1. Update on administration of Community Impact Program - Mayor Carbone noted she has been in discussion with the NW CT Community Foundation to provide technical assistance on the Community Impact Grants.

**Motion** by L. Pesce, seconded by C. McKenna – Recommendation to City Council to enter into an MOU with NW CT Community foundation to provide technical assistance in administration and review of the Community Impact Program. All in favor. None opposed.

1. Workforce Navigator RFQ
   1. Review revised RFQ – Committee reviewed changes to RFQ/RFP for Workforce Navigator.

**Motion** by L. Pesce, seconded by A. Ruwett – to authorize the Economic Development Director and Purchasing Agent to release the RFQ. All in favor. None opposed

1. Business and Non-Profit Direct Grants
   1. Review revised grant outline – Committee discussed the potential uses for these funds. The Committee would like the funds to be focused on capital improvements that help existing businesses grow or become more sustainable, façade improvements and support start-up businesses.

**Motion** by C. McKenna, seconded by M. Spino – Recommend City Council authorize, up to $250,000, for a second round of Façade Grants. All in favor. None opposed.

R. Malanca will revised the grant documents and bring to committee for review at next meeting

* 1. Discuss options for administration of the grant funds – the Committee would like to issue and RFQ to seek qualified organization to help develop the grant program, provide technical assistance to applicants and administer the program for the remaining funds dedicated to small business and non-profit support.

1. Social Service Study
   1. Discuss summary of Study – Goals of the Social Service Study were discussed and summary was distributed to committee for review. More detailed discussion expected at next meeting.