

Hackensack seeks more applicants for SCDP commercial rehab projects

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by Gail DeBoer Staff writer gdeboer@pilotindependent.com

Funding is still available for commercial rehab projects in the city of Hackensack through the Small Cities Development Program (SCDP), Cass County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) Director Gail Levenson told the Hackensack City Council in an update presented Aug. 6.

Under the programs, qualifying owner-occupied residences and businesses in Hackensack and Walker can apply for grants to make improvements to roofs, windows and doors, plumbing, insulation, electrical systems and more.

Levenson said this is the third year of the project, but funding has not yet been used up. There have been 12 commercial rehab applications from Walker but only three from Hackensack. A total of 10 projects have been done in the two cities and seven are in progress. If all commercial projects are approved and go forward, about \$75,000 would still be available.

To encourage more business applications, Levenson presented a map showing a new commercial zone in Hackensack that stretches a couple of blocks further north and south to include more businesses.

The council approved the new commercial zone. The new map can be viewed at city hall. Any business interested in applying for a SCDP grant should contact the CCEDC at (218) 947-7522 or e-mail to cass.edc@co.cass.mn.us.

In other matters the council

Approved the 2013 proposed budget at \$225,000, the same as in 2012. Total revenues are estimated at \$248,493 and expenditures, the same.

Approved employee raises at 3 percent for the first year (Aug. 1, 2012-July 31, 2013) and 2 percent for the second year (Aug. 1, 2013-July 31, 2014), the same as the previous two-year agreement.

Rescinded the \$50 per year charge for electricity that the Hackensack Kids' Fishing Contest pays, since several other events are not charged for electrical use.

Approved audit contracts with Mathias C. Justin, CPA for 2012 (\$6,800), 2013 and 2014 (\$7,500 each year).

Revised slightly the language of the Nuisance Ordinance, as recommended by the city attorney.

Will advertise for bids to sell the old city squad car minus any equipment that can be salvaged.

Accepted the following donations: Maxon Van Eps American Legion, \$200 toward fireworks (Chamber of Commerce); Hackensack American Legion, \$100 for National Night Out (Working Together Coalition);

Hackensack Lions Club, \$1,000 toward July 4 fireworks (Chamber of Commerce); and American Legion, \$50 for the Hackensack Fire Department.

Changed the date of the September council meeting to Sept. 10, because of the Labor Day holiday.