

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
OF  
LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL  
HELD REMOTELY  
DUE TO COVID-19  
APRIL 23, 2020  
5:30 P.M.**

Emergency Meeting of the Lakewood City Council called to order at 5:30 PM by President O'Malley.

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Present: Thomas R. Bullock III, Sarah Kepple, John Litten, Tess Neff, Daniel J. O'Malley, Tristan Rader, Jason Shachner

Also Present: Mayor George, Finance Director Rancatore, Development Officer Dan Wyman, Trish Rooney of Lakewood Community Services Center, Clerk Bach, Deputy Clerk Lascu, IT Manager Coletta, City Planner Katelyn Milius, Law Director Corrigan, Fire Chief Dunphy, and members of the public

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1. **RESOLUTION 9042-18A** - A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, amending Resolution No. 9042-18, adopted December 17, 2018 to include an additional \$1,787,948 allocated through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2019 One-Year Action Plan of the FY2015 - FY2019 Five-Year Consolidated Plan which includes dollar allocations and activities to be funded with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) resources and incorporates the City's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for FY2019 CDBG, ESG, and HOME funds and all amendments thereto and all understandings and assurances contained therein.

At the request of President O'Malley, Development Officer Wyman discussed the urgency of passing Resolution 9042-18A tonight rather than waiting until the next regular meeting of Council. He concluded that the sooner the City submits this amendment to HUD, the sooner the City can expect to receive the anticipated additional funds from the CARES Act.

Referencing the fact that Resolution 9042-18A was on the Council agenda April 20<sup>th</sup>, resident O'Malley asked Mr. Wyman to explain what information has changed since that time.

Mr. Wyman responded that since Monday, he has been in touch with the Cuyahoga housing Consortium and has clarified the expectations of HUD following the adoption of the resolution. He briefly summarized the steps that will be taken, should Council adopt the resolution, including a virtual public hearing of the Citizens Advisory Committee within five days.

Mayor George and Mr. Wyman explained to Council the timeline of information and guidance coming from HUD which required the emergency meeting. The City did not learn until Monday April 20<sup>th</sup> that HUD would require an amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan in order to expedite the citizen participation process under emergency conditions.

Vice President Litten remarked that these funds are clearly needed in the community and that he is supportive of speedy passage in order to facilitate bringing the funds to the City.

Mr. Wyman pointed out that the amended plan includes dollar amounts only but that the administration would be happy to discuss the likely use of the funds, which includes emergency food, housing, and utility assistance. He has been working with Lakewood Community Services Center in anticipation that it will be partnering with the City in administering programs to distribute these funds.

President O'Malley praised the good work of LCSC and their customized approach to helping residents on a case-by-case basis.

In response to questions by Council, the administration clarified that once Council adopts this resolution, the administration is not required to seek Council approval regarding how the funds are allocated. Mr. Wyman assured Council that funds would be allocated based on HUD guidance and would include small business support, food, rent, and utilities. He estimated that more would be allocated to program administration in order to compensate LCSC or any partner the City was working with.

In response to questions by Council, Mr. Wyman discussed the changes in the Citizen Participation Plan reflected in Resolution 7124-96A. In addition to modernizing and simplifying the language, Mr. Wyman amended it to include the permissibility of virtual hearings and reduce the public comment period from 30 to 5 days during and emergency. He also removed the requirement that hearings be advertised in the Sun Post, noting that this was costly and didn't usually generate much notice by the public.

Councilmember Bullock expressed support for adoption tonight but cautioned that the administration should not assume that Council is handing over all discretion over use of the funds. He asked for Council to be included in the decision-making process on the use of the funds and pointed out changes in the Citizen Participation Plan that he believed altered the role of Council in the process.

Mr. Wyman assured Council that the revisions to the CPP were not intended to change the role of Council in any meaningful way.

In order to relieve any concerns on this topic, Councilmember Kepple proposed the following amendment to Section I of Exhibit 1A:

City Council considers ~~and approves~~ these recommendations for inclusion in the City's HUD Annual Action Plan...

Councilmembers and the administration expressed agreement that this is a reasonable change.

Motion by President O'Malley and seconded to adopt Resolution 9042-18A.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

Motion passed. Resolution 9042-18A adopted.

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Communication from Mayor George regarding amended Citizen Action Plan

Motion by President O'Malley and seconded to receive and file the communication.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

Motion passed.

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2. **RESOLUTION 7124-96A** - A RESOLUTION to amend Resolution No. 7124-96, adopted September 3, 1996 amend the Citizen Participation Plan for the purposes of accepting additional federal funding awarded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Motion by President O'Malley and seconded to amend Resolution 7124-96A to change Section I of Exhibit 1A as follows:

City Council considers ~~and approves~~ these recommendations for inclusion in the City's HUD Annual Action Plan...

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

Motion passed. Resolution 7124-96A amended.

*Discussion:* In response to a question, Law Director Corrigan clarified that the amended language allows Council to still approve the CAC recommendations.

Motion by President O'Malley, and seconded to suspend the rules to allow for the passage of Resolution 7124-96A upon first reading.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

Motion passed. Rules suspended.

Motion by President O'Malley, and seconded to adopt Resolution 7124-96A as amended.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

Motion passed. Resolution 7124-96A adopted as amended.

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Motion by President O'Malley, seconded by Mr. Litten to adjourn.

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned: 6:25 PM

Approved: 5/4/2020

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CLERK

David J. Malley  
PRESIDENT