

CITY OF WARRENSBURG
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

April 6, 2020

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of Warrensburg, Missouri

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

SUBJECT: A Resolution Amending the Downtown Warrensburg Façade Grant Program for the Fiscal Year 20 Grant Cycle in Response to COVID 19

BACKGROUND:

The City established the Downtown Façade Grant Program in 2013 to promote reinvestment and preservation of the historic buildings in downtown Warrensburg. Since its inception, 24 grants have been awarded including \$19,320 in grant funds leveraging \$47,388 in private match for a total investment of \$66,708. A total of 14 buildings have been impacted in the downtown area.

The COVID 19 emergency and shelter in place orders have had a direct impact on local businesses. Some have had to temporarily close and other have had to reduce their operational levels. While this impacts them financially, some are using the time to make improvements to their buildings while traffic is reduced in and out of the buildings. There is now time to work on projects and maintenance items that have been put on the back burner.

Staff is proposing modifying the existing Façade Grant Program for the current grant cycle which runs until September 30, 2020 to assist with these efforts. The attached resolution eliminates the dollar for dollar private match requirement for the grant. Individual grants are limited to \$1,000 and this would mean the grant money could be the only money used for a project. The private owner would front the cost and then be reimbursed the \$1,000 which is the current process.

ISSUE:

To approve a resolution eliminating the dollar for dollar private match requirement for the remainder of the FY20 grant cycle.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The request is not addressed in the Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City included \$5,000 in the FY20 budget for the Downtown Façade Grant Program. There is currently \$4,250 remaining in the budget for the program.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS/IMPACT:

Continued re-investment in local businesses and downtown buildings.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Carroll, AICP
Director of Community Development

CC: City Manager

Attachments: 1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE DOWNTOWN WARRENSBURG FACADE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 20 GRANT CYCLE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, the City Council established the Downtown Façade Grant Program in 2013 to encourage historically appropriate facade improvements to existing buildings within the DREAM boundary; and

WHEREAS, a goal of the program is to promote the success of the businesses while preserving the unique historical characteristics of those buildings; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, 24 grants have been awarded including \$19,320 in grant funds leveraging \$47,388 in private match for a total investment of \$66,708 in 14 buildings in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, the state of emergency and shelter-in-place requirements for the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on local businesses and their on-going operations; and

WHEREAS, the on-going viability of local businesses will be essential to rebuilding the local economy following the pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council hereby finds and determines that the dollar for dollar match required for the Downtown Façade Grant Program is hereby waived during the FY20 grant cycle that began on October 1, 2019 and continues until September 30, 2020.

Section 2. City staff is hereby authorized to amend the application and documents related to the grant program to such effect.

Section 3. Funding for the Downtown Façade Grant Program was included in the FY20 Annual Budget at the level of \$5,000.

Section 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.

Adopted by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

Casey Lund, Mayor

Cindy Gabel, City Clerk