



**MINORITY, WOMEN & EVANSTON BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (M/W/EBE)
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
6:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Peter Braithwaite, Councilmember Bobby Burns, Councilmember Devon Reid, Jared Davis, Angela W. Pennisi, Kemone Hendricks, Bonaventure Fandohan, and Nasutsa Mabwa

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael McLean

STAFF PRESENT: Lara Biggs Capital Planning & Engineering Bureau Chief / City Engineer, Purchasing Manager Tammi Nunez, Nathan Norman Workforce Development Coordinator, and Jillian Ostman Purchasing Specialist

PRESIDING MEMBER: Councilmember Peter Braithwaite

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

With a quorum present Councilmember Braithwaite called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Councilmember Braithwaite motioned to suspend the rules to permit members to convene via a virtual meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Devon Reid and approved 7-0 (roll call taken).

Nasutsa Mabwa joined the meeting at 6:07 pm

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Devon Reid motioned to approve the Minutes as presented from November 17, 2021, seconded by Jared Davis. Motion passed unanimously 7-0 (roll call taken).

3. GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

No Guest

4. OLD BUSINESS

No old business

5. STAFF REPORTS

A. M/W/EBE and LEP Tracking Report

Tammi Nunez provided an overview of the MWEBE goal compliant report. As of

November there is participation of twenty-three percent. T. Nunez provided background information for several projects and stated that there are no updates to the 2021 MWEBE Waiver Report. In addition there has only been one project awarded for 2022 with participation of twenty-five percent. T. Nunez opened up the floor for questions. Councilmember Reid requested clarification of the report. T. Nunez provided a detailed explanation of the information. Angela Pennisi inquired about correspondence received in November about Boulder Contractors, and the concerns about monitoring their MWEBE participation. Councilmember Braithwaite stated that this will be put on hold and addressed at a later time.

B. 2022 Capital Planning Projects

Lara Biggs provided an overview of the LEP program as well as the LEP Summary 2022 Capital Improvement Program report and Reduction in LEP-Eligible Projects memo. L. Biggs provided clarity about the type of projects that require LEP and which are disqualified due to state and federal funding. Bonaventure Fandohan asked if there is a possibility of requesting contractors to make an effort to hire Evanston residents even though it is not a requirement due to funding. L. Biggs stated that this has not generally been discussed with contractors because it is not a requirement and would take a substantial investment by the contractor. L. Biggs went on to state that the current LEP program has been successful because many participants have gone on to have full-time employment. Councilmember Burns expressed the interest in potentially using funds to develop more local contractors. L. Biggs provided an overview of the upcoming Large Diameter Water Main and Lead Service Line Replacement projects. Councilmember Burns stated that he and Dave Stoneback have been working on developing a Workforce Development program to aid in Evanston residents being employed on projects such as the Lead Service Line Replacement Project.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. LEP Program Overview

Nathan Norman stated that a partnership with Northwestern University started in 2016 to solicit Evanston residents to be part of a workforce initiative. This initiative focused on carpentry, painting, electrical, and plumbing trades. The program had an 85% success rate in getting Evanston residents full-time employment.

B. LEP Penalty fund Update

Councilmember Braithwaite spoke about the LEP penalty ordinance and inquired what the balance of the LEP penalty fund is. T. Nunez stated that the LEP penalty fund has a balance of \$60,478.75 as of December 31, 2021.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Angela W. Pennisi motioned the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Burns carried unanimously. 8-0 (roll call taken). Meeting ended at 7:17 pm.