

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
NOVEMBER 13, 2012 – 11:00 A.M.
LINCOLN STREET GARAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
820 WASHINGTON STREET**



The Columbia City Council conducted an Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at the Lincoln Street Parking Garage, 820 Washington Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Sam Davis (Chair) called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. The Honorable Leona Plough and The Honorable Moe Baddourah were present.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Façade Improvement Program proposed Code Amendments

The following revisions were presented to the Committee on November 6, 2012:

1. **11.2 (d) Fees:** Application Fee = \$100.00 may be charged for any façade initiative
2. **11.2 (f) Target Area:** Clarified
3. **11.4 (g) Amortization Term** = up to Fifteen (15) years
4. **11.4 (h) Maximum Façade Loan Amount** = \$40,000 based upon available funds
5. **11.8 Default:** Process clarified
6. **11.9 (a) (iii) Maximum Forgivable Loan Amount** = 20,000, based upon available funds
7. **11.10 (a) (i) Maximum Grant Amount** = \$20,000, based upon available funds
8. The word rehabilitation has been removed and replaced with improvement(s) throughout the Façade Code.

The Committee recommendations are as follows:

1. **Section 11.2 (d) – Fees / Application Fee**

Change the wording to read as follows: An application fee of \$100.00 will be charged for any façade initiative with the exception of grants and forgivable loans.

2. Section 11.2 (c) – Definitions / Loan Committee

Change the word “rehabilitation” to “modifications/improvements”

Add a non-voting advisory person to the loan committee, such as a banker.

Replace a representative from a local business association with a representative of a target area/business.

3. Section 11.3 (d) - Eligibility Criteria

Façade improvements may include: Signs, landscaping and parking.

Funds may be used for exterior areas (remove loan funds).

Façade improvements may also include: Add security cameras to the list

4. Section 11.4 (d) - Term, Interest and Limit

The Committee has some concerns about the term COC. They will discuss what can and cannot be approved by the Staff. They also had some concerns about the COC staff being used throughout the document and said COC staff needs to be identified.

5. Section 11.5 (b) - Application Procedure 11.5

A detailed projection of earnings for the next year is required of applicants. Remove “may be”.

6. Section 11.5 (c) - All Applications

Then, the CDA, along with all required application documents will be submitted. Remove “may be”.

7. Section 11.6 - Consideration and Review of Application

The City Staff will reject any application for the following reasons. Remove the word “may” reject.

Staff will make the above modifications and bring the revisions back to the committee.

The Committee will recommend to City Council that security cameras be included in the Façade Loan Program.

2. Commercial Revolving Loan Fund proposed Code Amendments – *This item was deferred.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Jones, Office Manager
Office of Economic Development