



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Morgan Jethro, Community Development Manager

DATE: May 18, 2016

REF: Consideration – Authorization to Submit Smart Communities Grant Application to ElectriCities

BACKGROUND:

The ElectriCities membership organization provides management services to the state's two municipal power agencies - North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 and North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency, the latter of which the City of Elizabeth City is a member. Via their Economic Development Department, they have offered a Smart Communities Grant to remediate potential brownfields within urban areas. The maximum grant award is \$3,000 and requires a 50/50 match, which may be supplemented by other grant awards.

ANALYSIS:

As you are aware, the City has entered into negotiations with the Griffin family to purchase the former Shipyard property. The City has applied for \$1.4 million in grant funding to purchase the property at no cost to the City.

The first environmental assessment of the property was completed in 2015, and creosote was found on the parcel. It is anticipated that upon receipt of grant funds from various agencies, a second Environmental Assessment may be required.

City staff would like to apply for \$3,000 in order to perform a second Environmental Assessment of the Shipyard property, prior to acquisition of the property. While the grant is a dollar for dollar match, grant funds acquired during calendar year 2016 may be utilized as the grant match. Due to the excellent probability of the City receiving funding from CAMA, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and PARTF, the match will have no budgetary impact on the City.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee reviewed and discussed this matter during their meeting of May 18, 2016, with the following action being taken:

Motion was made by Councilman King, seconded by Councilman Donnelly, to recommend that the City Council authorize the City's Community Development Department to apply for a Smart Communities Grant from ElectriCities in the amount of \$3,000. Those voting in favor were: Hummer, Donnelly, King and Peel. Against: None. Motion carried.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the City's Community Development Department to apply for a Smart Communities Grant from ElectriCities in the amount of \$3,000.

RCO/vdw