



TOWN OF GLASGOW, VIRGINIA



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 6th, 2019

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CDBG BUSINESS DISTRICT PLANNING GRANT

The Town of Glasgow has been offered assistance from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for planning assistance for the Town's Business District Revitalization (BDR). The Town can be awarded \$3,000 for the completion of initial activities and a maximum of \$35,000 in planning expertise over the next 12 months.

The initial activities required are to host a public meeting, create and host an initial management team meeting, conduct a physical inventory survey of buildings in the business district, and host a second management team meeting for next steps. These steps must be completed by January 27th, 2020 in order to receive funding and obtain eligibility for larger CDBG project monies.

The physical inventory survey will be a survey of the commercial district. The goal of the survey is to identify active businesses and vacant buildings, then diagnose the condition of those buildings without businesses in them. Spencer Suter, Rockbridge County Administrator indicated Rockbridge County's willingness to provide staff support for this inventory survey. This report will then be submitted to DHCD.

Eric Pollitt the Town Manger expressed "When I went around Town talking to business owners one-on-one this summer, they all voiced their desire to rejuvenate the business district and ultimately the Town." Mr. Pollitt continued "Council adopted strategic initiatives back in August and this was one of those first steps. We have a plan in place and I'm simply executing their plan."

Mayor-Elect Shane Watts stated "This will be the beginning of the revitalization for our Town. One of the things I ran on was getting our business district some help, and we did just that. This will be great for our community." Councilman Sonny Williams "All of the small towns are trying to figure out what to do to draw business. Maybe we can come up with some ideas for our business district." Councilman Aaron Britton "This is an opportunity for us to improve our business district. These initial steps are the start of the process of working with an expert from DHCD who will consult the



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project management team on the business district.” Mr. Britton went on to state “I’d like to see us get a big project grant worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to rehabilitate our commercial buildings.” Councilman Andy Ryan “I think this is great. We need business in Glasgow. Anything we can do to grow our tax base is a must. I’m excited to see what comes from this.”

The initial public meeting will be held on Wednesday December 11th, 2019 6pm at Scotto’s. From that meeting, a project management team will be created to discuss the initial steps of the grant. After these initial steps are completed the project management team will continue to meet for the next 14 months roughly for the March 2021 CDBG Project Application period.