



City Manager's Report
August 14, 2018 City Council Meeting
Prepared By: M. Cleve Morris
Item#: 12.3

Subject: Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support the El Dorado Arts Council for the National Endowment for the Arts Grant Application to secure funding to restore Historic City Hall.

Purpose: The El Dorado Arts Council (EDAC) as prepared a Strategic Plan to restore both 487 and 489 Main Street and to use those buildings for the Arts. The purpose of this agenda item is to review that proposal and provide Council support for a grant to further explore the project.

Background: Historic City Hall (487 – 489 Main Street) has been mostly vacant with the exception of the first floor of the Emigrant Jane Building (489 Main Street) since the City moved out in 2005. During that time there have been attempts to sale the buildings, and one option working with a contractor to restore the buildings. These attempts have been unsuccessful. For the past year, the El Dorado Arts Council completed a Strategic Plan to identify programs for the arts in El Dorado County. During the process, Historic City Hall was identified as a potential Cultural Arts Center. Staff was involved with the process to the extent that necessary information was provided to explore the options. Earlier this year negotiations began between the Arts Council and staff regarding a potential lease agreement.

On June 12, 2018 Council reviewed terms for a potential lease under property negotiations in closed session and directed staff to continue the negotiations. Tonight, Terry LeMoncheck, Executive Director of the El Dorado Arts Council will make a presentation showing the Arts Council's commitment and plans for the buildings.

Discussion:

The mission of the El Dorado Arts Council is:

El Dorado Arts Council's mission to promote, connect, and empower arts and culture throughout the county is achieved by targeted programs and services, a vibrant gallery exhibition series, and a focus on initiatives which support and sustain the cultural life of the region.

When the City Council decided not to sell the buildings in approximately 2014, it was their desire to find a way to restore the buildings and make them a public or quasi-public use that could be enjoyed by the public due to the historic nature of the buildings. The proposal presented by the Arts Council will meet both of those goals, restore the buildings and make them available to the public.

At this time the Arts Council is requesting and Staff is recommending Council support for the grant application. The Arts Council is requesting a letter of support signed by the Mayor, and a statement by the City Manager indicating our support for the project.

Options:

1. Authorize the Mayor and the City Manager to sign the letters of support..
2. Revise the letters and authorize signature..
3. Do not approve the letters of support at this time..

Cost: Staff time to prepare the letters can be absorbed in the current budget.

Budget Impact: None. There will be minimal time to prepare the letters. This can be absorbed in the current budget.

Recommendation: Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign a letters of support the El Dorado Arts Council for the National Endowment for the Arts Grant Application to secure funding to restore Historic City Hall.


M. Cleve Morris, City Manager

Attachment: Presentation
Draft Letter from Mayor
Draft Statement from City Manager