



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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| Committee: Common Council | Date: 5/18/2021 |
| Common Council Item Number: ID# 21-2219 | Date: 5/18/2021 |
| Submitted By: Jennifer Andrews, Community Development Director | City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator Click here to enter text. |
| Finance Department Review: Bridget Souffrant, Finance Director BS | City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney Click here to enter text. |
| Subject: Review and approve a resolution authorizing staff to apply for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Community Development Investment (CDI) grant on behalf of the Civic Theater. | |

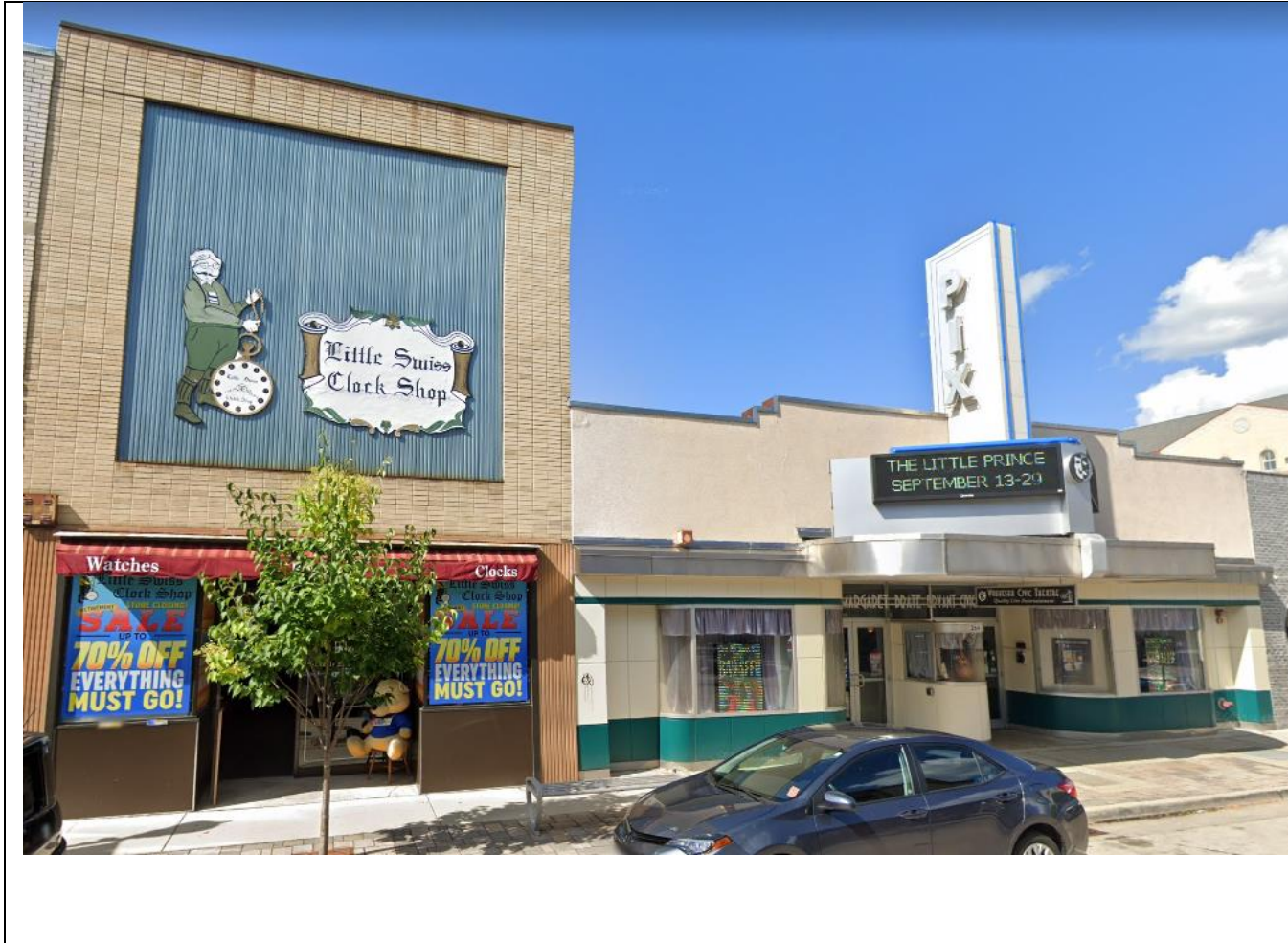
Details:
 The Civic Theater on Main St., in downtown, purchased the neighboring building, 270 W. Main St. (formerly Little Clock Shop), in 2020. The theater will be expanding its operations and needed the additional space to accommodate their programming. They will be completely renovating the new building and are in the design phases of that project right now. The expected cost of the project as 3 million dollars.

WEDC provides grants, up to \$250,000, that support redevelopment projects that increase employment and property values. The program is designed to assist with catalytic projects that will have positive impacts on the neighboring properties. The grants are awarded directly to municipalities for a specific project. The municipality acts as a pass-through organization for the funding to the developer/business doing the project. If the grant application is successful, the City and the theater would enter into an agreement outlining what costs may be reimbursed per the City's grant agreement with WEDC. When the theater has incurred the costs, covered by the grant, they will submit a request for reimbursement to the City. The City will in turn request reimbursement from WEDC and those funds would pass through the City to the theater.

This grant is a great opportunity to assist the theater with the expense of their renovations and reuse of 270 W. Main St. The building has not had any physical improvements made to it in many years. This is an opportunity to make much needed improvements to this building on a key block in downtown. It also assists in the growth of the Civic Theater in its downtown location. The theater draws thousands of visitors to downtown every year. The theater also has robust arts education programs for children and adults. The theater contributes significantly to the vitality of this block downtown and this expansion secures their physical location in downtown for many years to come.

This resolution is the first step in the grant process. Once this resolution is approved the staff will work with the theater to complete the application to the WEDC and the agreement between the two entities.





Options & Alternatives:

1. Approve the resolution and assist the theater with their expansion and renovation project.
2. Reject the resolution and require the theater to find alternative funding.

Financial Remarks:

This grant has no financial impact to the City.

Executive Recommendation:

Approve the resolution authorizing the staff to work with the theater to apply for the WEDC CDI grant.