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February 24, 2016
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Nevada City Council approves funds for economic development

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The Nevada City Council on Wednesday voted 5-0 to approve a one-time funding request from four community organizations to support events that “promote the City of Nevada City’s commerce and increase business activities.”

The Community and Support Program, which was approved by the city council during a meeting on Sept. 23, provides funding for “special events, marketing activities, or other economic development-related activities providing a public benefit to the city,” according to the city document.

The [South Yuba River Citizens League](#) became the fifth contender for the city-sponsored grant, adding to a list that consisted of applications from [Nevada City Chamber of Commerce](#), [Nevada County Historical Society](#), and [Sierra Streams Institute](#).

Executive Director Caleb Dardick, who asked the city to support the two school assembly programs at Yuba River Charter and Forest Charter, said he didn’t make the application deadline of Jan. 31 because he wasn’t aware of the program.

“This particular round with its deadline I was not aware of, and I wasn’t aware of how they funded these assemblies,” said Dardick. “Many other water agencies for example, use water conservation funding to pay for these assemblies, and apparently Nevada City doesn’t have those resources, so they use this fund.”

He said the nonprofit has applied for the same program for the past three years, but the grant was under a different name.

“The Great Mystery” interactive in-school program educates students about the importance of water conservation.

Dardick asked for \$1,250, which would exceed the \$5,000 funding threshold that the city has set for the Community and Support Program.

Council members exchanged different ideas of allocating the funding.

Both Mayor Jennifer Ray and Vice Mayor Evans Phelps suggested distributing the amount equally, so each project gets \$1,000.

"They are all worthy projects, I don't want to say hey your project isn't worthy enough to get that funding," said Phelps.

Other applications include a proposal by the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce to update an old tourist map and to erect a new sign for the 7 Hills Business District; a request by Firehouse No. 1 Museum of Nevada County Historical Society to install two display cases to house artifacts honoring the Nevada City Volunteer Fire Department; and an application by the Sierra Streams Institute to develop a 750-foot section of the poorly maintained Providence Mine Spur Trail on the city-owned Environs property.

The Chamber asked \$1,000 for the map update and \$1,756.94 for the new sign. The Historical Society and Sierra Streams each requested \$1,000. The four applications would have cost the city a total of \$4,756.94.

Also on Wednesday, the city council unanimously approved a street closure request by the [Nevada City United Methodist Church](#) for the 30th Annual Spring Run.

The 5K and 10K run/walk is scheduled for April 30, and organizers requested a temporary shut-down of a section of Mill Street between Broad Street and Spring Street.

The city did not receive an opposing argument for Measure X before deadline, so there was no need to designate an author for the rebuttal argument, officials said.

Measure X, which will appear on the June ballot, is an initiative created by the city to simplify the business tax license application procedure.

The deadline for filing an argument for or against a measure was Feb. 19 at 5 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Teresa Yinmeng Liu at tliu@theunion.com or call (530) 477-4236.