



AGENDA MEMO

Business of the City Council

City of Sweeny, Texas

Meeting Date	10/21/2025	Agenda Items	
Approved by City Manager		Presenter(s)	Agenda Req.; Councilman Bess Pos. No. 1
Reviewed by City Attorney		Department	Grants
Subject	Discussion and possible action to requested agenda item; email received by Councilman Bess, Pos. No1; TWDB		
Attachments / Supporting documents	Email Received.; Minutes 12/17/24		
Financial Information	Expenditure Required:	N/A	
	Amount Budgeted:	N/A	
	Account Number:		
	Additional Appropriation Required:		
	Additional Account Number:		

Executive Summary

Previously, the City of Sweeny applied for a possible loan forgiveness grant from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The grant was requested at a 12+ million dollars.

The City was notified that we were approved for a little over a million dollars, but they could not verify it was a loan forgiveness grant. We were also notified that we had 45 days to complete all paperwork and additional engineering documents, that had not been started at the time. Those documents included design of the project, proposed bid documents, and a budget scope.

With the City not having enough time to get the engineering completed nor the funds to pay for engineering, we requested additional time and were told that was not possible. We let Council determine, and it was decided not to move forward, but re-apply when the City was more prepared. We were told this would not affect our ability to re-apply in the future.

I have recently been interviewed by an independent journalism organization that is investigating how funds are distributed and handled by the TWDB. I answered most of their questions the best I possibly could. The reporter informed me as the conversation closed, that we were not the only small city or city utility company that has faced these issues. It appeared to her, that it was a trend that took place, and most of the money was awarded to bigger agencies that could afford to have studies and engineering completed before applying for these grants.

I have asked Grantworks to seek out available grants that we qualify for and before we apply, to make sure we have ALL required documents available or can provide them in a short term moving forward.

Timeline:

11/16/24 Received invitation to apply with required intent to apply to be received by 12/06/24

11/21/24 Sent letter of intent to apply ; Pre-meeting held following the letter sent. Pre-meeting is required to go over specifics on intent of applying to include funding sources for our size City and application requirements.

12/17/24 Council moved to stop the development of the TWDB Grant due to financing and lacking documents to proceed with a full application.

01/10/25 Full application package due, to include full application, map, budget, engineering, impact assessment, engineering feasibility report

Recommended Action

Council discretion.