

Council votes to support housing project

August 21, 2022



The city council of Crescent City voted unanimously to support a potential affordable housing project in the city, authorizing Mayor Jason Greenough to sign a letter supporting Battery Point Apartments.

The letter was at the request of Synergy Community Development Corp., which is hoping to build the apartment complex on a lot between E Street and Gary Street.

The plan currently calls for 120 affordable-housing and workforce units and a separate 40-unit complex for seniors.

“As the council is well aware, housing is of the utmost need in our community, and increasing the housing stock is one of biggest goals,” City Manager Eric Weir said before introducing Bill Rice, who was representing Synergy.

Rice said he was asking for a letter of support from the council because Synergy was hoping to apply for a grant that would help pay for the infrastructure work at the site.

That work would include underground things such as water and sewer systems.

Rice explained if the company can get the infrastructure grant, it will be in a very good position to get other levels of support to build the complex.

“We’ve been looking very much for a parcel in the city that can be developed for housing and seniors,” Rice said. “We’ve been looking at the data and a new project that can benefit families and seniors has not been successful for more than a decade.”

Rice said the key to making the development affordable is finding outside funding such as the grant and state credits that are offered to a small number of projects every year.

“If we’re successful in getting that financing, it works kind of like a magnet,” Rice said. “The state likes to support ideas that have public support and have funding behind it.”

Rice said if the grant application is successful, Synergy would apply for state tax credits next year.

After hearing about the plans, the council was strongly in support.

“I’m excited about it,” Councilman Blake Inscore said. “I appreciate the vision you and Synergy have for our community. I appreciate seeing all the work that’s been done. It looks fantastic. I want to thank you for the work you are doing, and the investment you are making in our community.”

“I support this project wholeheartedly because there’s such a need in our community for all kinds of housing,” Mayor Jason Greenough said. “There’s a huge need for housing in this community, so thank you for stepping up with this project.”

After the discussion, the council voted unanimously to support the project.