CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager

From: Patty Huffman, Grants and Projects Manager

Through: Eric Meyer, Director of Economic Development and Planning

Date: October 29, 2012

Subject: Submission of Notice of Intent to Apply to MS Dept. of Archives and History for Certified Local Government Grant funding- West Pascagoula Colored School

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REQUEST:
The Economic Development and Planning Department requests City Council authorization to submit a Notice of Intent to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) to apply for a Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant for the West Pascagoula Colored School prior to the November 9, 2012 deadline.

BACKGROUND:
The Certified Local Government Program is a federal-state-local partnership that promotes historic preservation at the grassroots level and helps communities deal with preservation needs. CLG communities are eligible for annual matching grants to undertake preservation projects of importance to the community. Grants may be used for such diverse projects as the restoration of historic buildings; historical, architectural, or archaeological site inventory work; preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; educational programs; and staff support for new historic preservation commissions. In FY2012, seventeen (17) Mississippi communities received grant awards ranging between $1,200 and $10,500.

DISCUSSION:
The Gautier Historic Preservation Commission has identified the West Pascagoula Colored School as an important historical site for restoration and preservation. The building was designated as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in October 2012. Based on CLG grant guidelines, City staff recommends that a Notice of Intent be submitted to nominate the building for the National Register of Historic Places and to begin Rehabilitation/Stabilization of the structure for a total project cost of $20,000 with a 50% local match.

Certified Local Government grant requests typically range from $1,000 to $10,000 and require a local match of at least 50%. The local match can be from cash and/or in-kind contributions. The full grant application is due on March 1, 2013. The grant period begins in May 2013, and projects must be completed by August 1, 2014. Certified Local Government Grants are reimbursement grants; no funds will be released until the project is complete, and all grant materials and financial reports have been submitted to MDAH.

RECOMMENDATION:
The Economic Development and Planning Department staff recommends that City Council authorize submission of a Notice of Intent to MDAH by November 9, 2012. City Council may:

1. authorize submission of a Notice of Intent to apply for CLG Grant funding from MDAH for the West Pascagoula Colored School as outlined above; or
2. disapprove submission of a Notice of Intent to apply for Certified Local Government Grant funding from MDAH for the West Pascagoula Colored School as outlined above.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A