

Ferron City Council
c/o Brittany Yeates, Recorder (recorder@ferroncity.org)

9 November, 2020

RE: CARES ACT PROJECT PROPOSAL (web + ordinance updates)

As you know, the current pandemic has affected local governments in a number of ways. In order to help communities move beyond the crisis, the federal government enacted the CARES Act – part of which was intended to help communities adjust in order to operate better over time. The purpose of this letter is to propose a partnership that could be funded by some of those funds that are dedicated to Ferron.

- **Website Update Initiative:** The recent shutdown highlighted the need for local governments to provide as many of their services online as possible. This can only be done with a modern website that has elements like the following:
 - Rebranding to highlight the assets and amenities that invite business and tourism.
 - Ability for residents to apply for permits online (such as business licenses).
 - Capability to host public meetings online.
 - Online hosting of the City's codes (through our civiclinQ.com platform, see below).

Our team's estimate for this initiative is \$5,500 and includes the work required to design, develop, test, and implement the new site. This site will be hosted for 3 years through our civiclinQ.com platform (described below).

- **Ordinance Update Initiative:** Most local government operations are dictated by ordinances and rules that need to be updated amended. With the goal of paperless interaction, we believe that our civiclinQ.com platform could provide the materials and support for the City to update ordinances that would facilitate things such as:
 - Hosting public meetings online.
 - Streamlining processes (such as subdivision approvals) to be paperless.
 - Accepting business license applications/renewals online.
 - Developing an updated emergency operations plan.

We have provided this service to similar communities with a subscription rate of \$300/mo. We estimate that Ferron could significantly and incrementally improve their codes over the next 3yrs, so our team is proposing a discounted 3yr contract for a lump sum of \$9,500.

Together, these proposed services would represent a commitment of \$15,000 of CARES Act funds, and would establish a partnership with our teams for the next three years. We believe that these projects are strategic investments that not only help the City adapt to the impact to the current pandemic, but they will help improve the way Ferron residents conduct their business with the City for years to come.

Sincerely,



Mike Hansen
RURAL COMMUNITY CONSULTANTS