

Tax Increment Financing

Section 7. TIF Process

- A. The City will use the following process for initial evaluation and consideration of any proposed TIF plan:
1. Pre-application meeting between Applicant and City staff.
 2. Negotiation and execution of a Preliminary Funding Agreement in accordance with the City's Policy governing Requests for Proposals.
 3. Submission of draft TIF Plan.
 4. City conducts initial review of TIF plan to determine compliance with the TIF Act and identify any issues. The City will provide a written response to the draft TIF plan.
 5. Revisions to the draft TIF plan as required by the City's initial written response. Applicant files revised plan.
 6. After initial issues that were identified by City staff have been addressed and after staff determines the TIF plan is complete and contains all of the required elements pursuant to the TIF Act, the City will issue initial notices to the taxing districts. Thereafter, the TIF plan will be processed in accordance with the TIF Act requirements. The City may refuse to issue the initial notices if the TIF plan is incomplete.
 7. The City will issue the notice regarding requests for proposals, in accordance with the City's Policy governing Requests for Proposals. This notice may be issued before, after, or simultaneously with the initial notice to the taxing districts.
 8. Any changes to the TIF plan which are prepared by the Developer shall be delivered to the City with sufficient time to review the proposed change(s) prior to the next scheduled meeting at which the plan will be considered. The City may continue the TIF Commission public hearing or the Board of Aldermen's consideration of the TIF Plan if City staff does not have sufficient time to review the proposed changes and provide a report to the TIF Commission or Board of Aldermen, as appropriate.
- B. TIF Commission consideration of a TIF Plan.
1. The TIF Commission may hold one or more study sessions to discuss the process for considering a TIF plan.
 2. At the public hearing, if the TIF plan has been prepared and proposed by a developer or landowner, the applicant will present the proposed plan, followed by comments and recommendations from City staff. The Commission will take public testimony, and the applicant will be allowed time for a response. All questions from the Commission to an applicant, City staff or the public shall be held during the public hearing.
 3. The TIF Commission recommendation may include any recommended additional changes, conditions or requirements that the Commission believes should be satisfied prior to

approval of the TIF plan or prior to implementation of the TIF plan or a particular project or phase of the TIF plan.

4. If the TIF Commission considers and votes on a resolution to recommend approval of the TIF plan but such resolution fails to receive a vote of approval, such action shall be deemed by the Board of Aldermen to be a recommendation against the TIF plan.

C. Board of Aldermen consideration of TIF Plan.

1. The Board of Aldermen may consider each TIF plan as a regular agenda item, and is not required to hold a public hearing regarding the TIF plan. The Board of Aldermen may, at its discretion, allow public comments regarding the TIF plan.
2. The Board of Aldermen may, at its discretion, hold one or more special meetings to consider the TIF plan.

- D. Independent studies may be obtained by the City through or at the request of City staff, the TIF Commission, or the Board of Aldermen. Such studies may include a blight study, a financial feasibility study, a market analysis, a traffic study, or any other type of professional evaluation of the TIF plan or any element of the TIF plan. The costs of any study shall be paid by the applicant in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement.

Section 8. Guidelines for Considering TIF Plans.

Most favorable consideration will be given to those plans that satisfy the general guidelines applicable to all applications as set forth in Section 5 of this Policy, and that satisfy the following additional guidelines:

- A. The total amount of subsidy from TIF revenues should be no more than 15% of the total project costs. The measurement of total project costs shall include all site preparation costs, building construction costs, hard costs, soft costs, developer fees, all professional fees of any type, and all project budget contingencies. Actual land costs incurred by the applicant will be considered as part of the total project costs. If land was purchased prior to preparation of the draft TIF plan, then the current market value as determined by an independent appraiser, approved by the City, may be considered as part of the total project costs.
- B. Any applicant that requests the issuance of bonds, notes or other indebtedness by the City must demonstrate that all annual revenues to repay the debt are at least 1.25 times the projected annual debt-service payments.
- C. The City will not provide a general fund annual appropriation pledge to enhance the sale of debt for the project except in extraordinary circumstances as demonstrated by the applicant.
- D. The TIF plan should provide for a retainage account to hold at least 15% of the TIF revenues until the project, including all private development, is substantially complete.
- E. TIF projects which create jobs with wages that exceed the community average will be favored.
- F. TIF plans that propose retail development should encourage the inflow of customers from outside the City and should not divert sales from or cannibalize existing retail in the City. If the TIF plan will cause or result in the relocation of one or more businesses already within the City, the Applicant must demonstrate that the business would leave or cease operations in the City without

such relocation, and the base year of the business (for the purpose of calculating economic activity taxes and payments in lieu of taxes) shall be the 12-month period prior to closing at its prior location. The TIF contract shall implement these requirements for relocated businesses.

- G. TIF plans that propose the redevelopment of existing residential neighborhoods and commercial and industrial areas will be favored. Projects to stabilize deteriorating or blighted residential neighborhoods and commercial and industrial areas will be favored.
- H. TIF plans that will be in effect for no more than 12 years will be favored.
- I. The developer should contribute not less than 15% of the total project costs from cash equity of the developer. Land costs or land value shall not be included in the calculation of developer's equity contribution unless the land will be purchased after the TIF plan is submitted to the City, or was purchased within one year prior to submitting the TIF plan to the City. Private loans obtained by developer will not be included in the calculation of developer's equity.
- J. The plan should provide for a mandatory declaration of surplus Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) to the applicable taxing districts that impose real property taxes within the redevelopment area in the amount of 50% of all captured PILOTs. The declaration of mandatory surplus PILOTs shall be disbursed from the special allocation fund on a basis that is proportional to the current collections of revenue which each taxing district receives from real property in the redevelopment area, as set forth in Section 99.820.1(12), RSMo.
- K. A proposed TIF plan which does not meet the guidelines of this Policy may be viewed favorably by the City if the applicant clearly demonstrates that the project is of vital interest to the City and will significantly benefit the City through the elimination of blight, financing desirable public improvements, strengthening the employment and economic base of the City, increasing property values, reducing poverty, creating economic stability, upgrading and stabilizing older neighborhoods or developments, and facilitating economic self-sufficiency.

Section 9. TIF Contract.

- A. The ordinance that approves a TIF plan will include a requirement that a redevelopment contract must be executed by the selected developer within a designated time period, upon terms and conditions that are acceptable to the City.
- B. The initial draft of a TIF contract will be prepared by the City. An ordinance to approve a TIF contract will not be placed on a Board of Aldermen agenda until all outstanding contractual issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of City staff.
- C. The contract may contain a list of pre-approved or prohibited land uses or tenants.
- D. The TIF contract will provide that prevailing wages must be paid by the developer where required by law, and the developer will indemnify the City for failure to meet applicable prevailing wage laws.
- E. The TIF contract will provide for an order of priority in which reimbursable project costs and other eligible costs shall be paid from the special allocation fund, on an as-collected basis or to repay bonds that have been issued pursuant to the TIF plan.

- F. The TIF contract will provide for a City administrative fund to be funded by a portion of the TIF revenues, which will pay for costs incurred by the City, including financial, legal, traffic and other consultants and advisors to the City, to administer the TIF plan and enforce the contractual obligations of the developer and the developer's authorized successors, assignees and transferees in the redevelopment area. In addition to any other costs that are authorized to be funded from the administrative fund, the contract will authorize the City to withdraw 2% of the funds deposited in the special allocation fund through the first full calendar year, and 1% annually thereafter, to reimburse the City for costs incurred to manage the special allocation fund and provide for the collection and disbursement of TIF revenues. The TIF contract will also provide for reimbursement to the City from the special allocation fund for costs incurred by the City to conduct a 'Component Unit' audit of any special funding district that is established in furtherance of the TIF plan. Funding of the City administrative costs will be a higher priority than reimbursement of developer reimbursable project costs.
- G. Interest on certified developer reimbursable project costs shall accrue from the date of City approval and certification for payment. Interest shall not start to accrue when the developer incurs such expense, or when a request for reimbursement is submitted to the City.