

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**May 13, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.
Council Chamber – City Hall**

A Council work session was held for a discussion on COVID relief funds.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Madison Davis, Russell Moore, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach.

Bryan Carter, Interim City Manager/City Attorney; Chris Connally, Police Chief; Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director; Andy Clements, Public Works & Transportation Director; Debra Bradley, Health Director; Tom Mahoney, Interim Administrative Services Director; Jason Soper and Ted Elo, Asst. City Attorneys; Judy Hovey; Associate Director of Finance & Revenue Division; Mary Robertson, Asst. to the City Manager/Communications & Public Relation Manager; Rich Karleskint, Budget & Financial Analyst; Ed Schilling, Multimedia Planner; Cindy McDermott, Accountant; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order.

Bryan Carter, Interim City Manager/City Attorney, said City staff is working through 150 pages of regulations received from the federal government and will be reviewing the pending applications to determine which ones meet the specified criteria for receiving the COVID-19 relief funds. They would like to get the City Council's feedback on potential priorities to consider.

Jason Soper, Asst. City Attorney, and Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director, gave a power point presentation on the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (copy attached).

City staff was asked to provide the City Council with a list of who has requested these funds and an update on who received CARES Act funding.

Mr. Carter said based on the information they have received to date, there is a lot of flexibility in the use of these funds for broadband, sewer and water infrastructure. Using some of these funds for certain sewer projects allows the City to keep the sewer use rates flat this fiscal year and the following fiscal year and is a good way to benefit the entire community.

Aaron Armstrong, 6411 Grant St., spoke on behalf of the south side residents who were affected by the Contrary Creek flooding and said they have some ideas about using this funding to help them. If this funding will not help them, let's work as quickly as possible to come up with something that will.

Whitney Lanning, Executive Director of Community Action Partnership, 1332 N 36th Street, thinks it's important to create a committee that identifies needs and priorities.

No one objected to forming a committee to review the applications for funding. Mr. Carter said a resolution will be submitted to the Council approving the committee and asked the City Council to provide any suggested members to him or Mr. Thompson.

Alison Schieber, Library Board member, 3708 Grain View Terrace, spoke on behalf of the Allied Arts Council regarding a request for \$10,000 for the "From Steam to S.T.E.A.M" event and \$5,000 for the Arts fund.

Jim Weidinger, 4614 Iris Avenue, told the Council not to study this thing to death; the City Council was elected by the people and has the authority to do what needs to be done. Get the money out there to the people or projects that need it. He supports more of the funding going to the City departments first and wished the City Council would consider their own employees. He feels the way to help the entire City is to fund as many public projects as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.



Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021



WHAT IS IT

- ▶ Money from the federal government for the State, County, and City
- ▶ Recovery from COVID-19



HOW MUCH DO WE GET ?

Approx. Thirty-Nine Million Dollars

- ❖ 2 Payments of Approx. \$19.5 Million
- ❖ 1 Payment Now
- ❖ 1 Payment A Year From Now



WHAT CAN IT BE USED FOR ?

1. Assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits harmed economically by COVID, or aid tourism, travel and hospitality industries harmed economically by COVID
2. Providing premium pay for essential workers
3. Providing government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue to the City due to COVID
4. Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

CAN NOT USE THE MONEY FOR.....

- ▶ Replacing Net Reduction in Tax Revenue
- ▶ Federal Matching Requirements
- ▶ Placing Deposits Into Pension Funds
- ▶ Funding Debt Services, Legal Settlements, or Judgments
- ▶ Deposits Into Rainy Day Funds or Financial Reserves




FRAMEWORK TO ASSESS ELIGIBILITY FOR PROJECTS AND SERVICES

1. Identify the harmful effect of COVID-19 the project or service will address.
2. Assess the causal or compounding connection.
3. Assess for disproportionate impact on distressed sectors of population.
4. Determine how to prove the expense produces the expected outcome.



REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- ❑ Interim Report: Expenditures and project designations as of July 31, 2021...report is due by August 31, 2021.
- ❑ Quarterly Report Thereafter



City Process to Solicit for Funds

- ▶ Public Advertisement
 - ▶ 30 Day process
- ▶ City Project Requests
 - ▶ All City Departments



Review of Applications

External Requests

18 Projects/Programs

\$13 million

Internal Requests

\$20 million

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE ?

- ❑ The money must be **obligated** to an eligible project or payee by 12/31/2024 or returned to the federal government
- ❑ Any project receiving ARP funds must be completed by the end of 2026



Next Steps

Review applications for eligibility.

Determine priority of Council of eligible projects.



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**All Projects Must Be Eligible
Based On Established Criteria**