

**MINUTES
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2022**

Present: Mayor Ben Florsheim; Majority Leader Gene Nocera; Minority Leader Phil Pessina; Pamela Steele; Rev. Robyn Anderson; Rev. Moses Harvill; Cynthia Clegg; Bobbye Knoll Peterson; Joe Samolis; Bryan Skowera; Christina Heckart; Carl Erlacher; Brig Smith; Joe Fazzino

Public: Mary Ellen Shuckerow, Glenn Salamone, QSR Steel, Sandra Russo-Driska

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m.

Bryan Skowera made a MOTION to amend the agenda to add under Old Business: (a) Report on Current Expenses and Balances, (b) Report on Premium Pay, and (c) Report from Water and Sewer. Minority Leader Phil Pessina seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Mary Ellen Shuckerow and Glenn Salamone described a potential use of ARPA funding for a \$2.5M community hub building.

3. Approval of Minutes

Majority Leader Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the December 8, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Rev. Robyn Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

a. Report on Current Expenses and Balances

Brig Smith advised that no money has yet been encumbered or expended. The Task Force recommended \$2.75M for immediate water and sewer needs and the Common Council has since appropriated it. A contract and purchase order are pending review and, if approved, would result in the \$2.75M actually being expended.

b. Report on Premium Pay

Brig Smith advised that the Treasury Department has issued its final rule for ARPA funds. Under that rule, premium pay for essential workers is capped at \$13/hour and \$25,000 total per worker. Bryan Skowera asked if that would be in addition to, or in lieu of, existing OT, which will be discussed at the Task Force's next meeting.

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c. Report from Water and Sewer

Joe Fazzino updated the Task Force on upcoming proposed expenditures of the \$2.75M in authorized funding, including work on Saybrook Road and a proposal for design work from Prime AE. He also advised that he has submitted a comprehensive report on design and construction needs to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

5. New Business

a. Website

Joe Samolis walked through the website and application process to be used for the Task Force to consider funding requests.

b. Applications for ARPA Funding

Joe Samolis also walked through the application form and process. He volunteered to be a point of contact for questions from applicants. The Task Force discussed options for reviewing and recommending approval of applications. Review will occur as applications are received, but recommendations for approval would at a later date.

c. Public Outreach and Workshops

The Mayor advised that the website and application process will be publicly announced this week. Joe Samolis suggested a rolling cutoff period prior to the next Task Force meeting to provide the members time to review. Majority Leader Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the application as drafted. Phil Pessina seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

6. Adjournment

Cynthia Clegg made a MOTION to adjourn. Majority Leader Gene Nocera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.