

**MINUTES
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 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; Bryan Skowera; Christina Heckart; Diana Doyle; Brig Smith; Joe Fazzino; Kevin Elak

Public: JR Hargreaves, Terri DiPetro, Monica Belyea, Laura Martino, Sandra Russo-Driska; Sarah Moore

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.

2. Public Comment

Terri DiPetro described a potential use of ARPA funding for young adults and perinatal clinics through Middlesex Hospital with an approximate cost of \$1.4M.

Bryan Skowera made a MOTION to amend the agenda to include under New Business a discussion about limiting public comment from potential applicants prior to them giving a presentation on ARPA funding. Minority Leader Phil Pessina seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Phil Pessina made a MOTION to approve the January 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Pamela Steele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Public Comment Prior to Presentations

Bryan Skowera made a MOTION to limit future comment from members of the public who are applying for ARPA funding if the comments amount to a pre-presentation. He suggested that hearing comment from someone at one meeting offering a preview of their project and then an actual presentation from the same person at another meeting advocating for the project duplicates effort and takes time from an already tight timeframe. Pamela Steele seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. ARPA Applications Received

Brig Smith advised that the three applications have been submitted so far: one by JR Hargreaves, one by Ramona Burkey of the library, and one by Cathy Lechowicz of the City's Recreation and Community Services Department. Mr. Hargreaves is

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presenting today, as his was the first application received. Ms. Burkey and Ms. Lechowicz were asked to present at a later date because of the limited time available.

Mayor Florsheim suggested that a limited number of members of the Task Force review applications and presentations and give a recommendation to the full Task Force on how to recommend ARPA funding allocations to the Common Council. Interested Task Force members will contact Brig Smith if they are interested in serving.

C. Presentations by Applicants

JR Hargreaves gave a presentation on potential adaptive re-use of former roller rink at 545 Main Street, including business incubator spaces and workforce housing.

5. Old Business

a. Report on Current Expenses and Balances

Brig Smith advised that the city received \$12,031,417 in general government funding (\$6M now; \$6M in May +/-), \$8,105,000 for the BOE, and \$8,971,454 for “county” funding. The Task Force already recommended \$2.75M for immediate water and sewer needs: \$500,000 for a water main and \$750,000 per basin for our 3 worst basins. Council has appropriated this amount, but no funds from it have yet been encumbered or expended.

b. Report on Premium Pay

Brig Smith advised that, under the Final Rule, premium pay is separate from overtime. The city cannot use these funds to reimburse itself for overtime pay that has already been paid, nor may it use these funds for overtime pay that is owed and not yet paid.

c. Report from Water and Sewer

Joe Fazzino updated the Task Force on upcoming water and sewer work, including replacing infrastructure at Main Street near the Elks Club. Preliminary design for Basin 27 is pending execution of a contract. The city has also received a proposal for flow monitoring for Basins 25 and 26, which is largely the southern portion of town. All told, the Water and Sewer Department is looking at encumbering \$392,300 in the immediate future, which would leave a remaining balance of \$2,357,700 in available ARPA funds.

6. Other

Phil Pessina made a MOTION to schedule a special meeting Wednesday, February 23 at 11:00. Rev. Robyn Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn made by Gene Nocera and seconded by Phil Pessina. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 12:16 p.m.