

**MINUTES
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2022**

Present: Mayor Ben Florsheim; Majority Leader Gene Nocera; Minority Leader Phil Pessina; Pamela Steele; Cynthia Clegg; Brianna Skowera; Rev. Moses Harvill; Christina Heckart; Diana Doyle; Brig Smith; Joe Fazzino; Kevin Elak; Bobby Knoll Peterson; Carl Erlacher; Rev. Robyn Anderson; Alice Diaz

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Cynthia Clegg made a MOTION to approve the May 11, 2022 regular meeting and June 2, 2022 special meeting minutes. Phil Pessina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Christina Heckart abstaining.

4. New Business

A. Presentation by Applicants

i. Connecticut Home Collective, PLLC

Connecticut Home Collective, PLLC gave a presentation on potentially delivering 12 sessions of their Foundations curriculum specifically for Middletown residents, as well as 3 sessions for Middletown realtors, landlords, municipal, and organizational stakeholders. All 15 sessions will be free of charge and will prioritize low to moderate income BIPOC residents.

ii. Middlesex Redemption Center

Middlesex Redemption Center gave a presentation on proposing a Redemption Center that would be located in the R.M. Keating Historical Enterprise Park and seeks to assist the neighborhood by reducing environmental waste and create jobs while also providing a means for this targeted group to recoup their bottle and can deposits.

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iii. 206 Inc.

206 Inc. gave a presentation on potentially purchasing and renovating property to create a Veteran's Campus to support all Veteran activities in the City of Middletown and community, including a headquarters for American Legion Post 206, Headquarters for 206, Inc., Veteran's incubator program, community cooling center, after school educational program for community youth, family crisis and reuniting service for veterans, counseling academy and all other American Legion programs to benefit the City of Middletown. The property will also house a banquet facility to generate income for growth and support.

iv. Downtown Business District

Downtown Business District gave a presentation on potentially creating a match fund program to help property owners in the downtown commercial area improve their exterior building facades such as new awnings or storefront treatments, to lighting, painting, windows and other types of maintenance needs. The program would provide 75% of the project and the property owner would pay the balance.

B. Discussion of Pending Applications

Brig Smith explained that there are 8 pending applications to be scheduled as of now and the 4 that they heard during the meeting, the working group still needs to vote of these applications. Brig shared his screen to show what he is tracking in terms of working group recommendations and task force recommendations. More discussion ensued regarding what applications the working group has reviewed versus what the task force has reviewed.

Brianna Skowera suggested scheduling a special meeting to go over all applications that have presented but have not been voted on by the task force. Brig suggested scheduling the meeting on June 22 at 11am.

C. Approval Process and Timeline

Discussion of approval process and timeline was discussed under item 4B.

5. Old Business

- a. Report of Current Expenses and Balances**
- b. Report from Water and Sewer**

Joe Fazzino updated the Task Force on upcoming water and sewer work. He explained that Prime's portion of the investigation of Area 27 is completed and Wright Pierce has completed the TB inspection for basin 25 and 26. Saybrook

Road is on hold for now. Joe explained that Water & Sewer currently has 2 applications into the ARPA Task Force. Those applications are for the Bartholomew Pump Station and the replacement of Red Road Pump Station. He has concerns on funding and whatever can't be funded will go to bond in November.

6. Other

7. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn made by Brianna Skowera and seconded by Gene Nocera. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 12:45p.m.