

**MINUTES  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TASK FORCE  
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2022**

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

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order.

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Phil Pessina made a MOTION to approve minutes of the July 13, 2022 regular meeting and Rev. Robyn Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention from Christina Heckart.

**4. New Business**

**A. Presentation by Applicants**

**i. NHCPA Riverbend, LLC**

NHCPA Riverbend, LLC gave a presentation on the potential creation of an outdoor music venue.

**ii. St. Vincent de Paul Middletown**

St. Vincent de Paul Middletown gave a presentation on potential permanent supportive housing units, inclusive of housing the City of Middletown's permanent Non-Congregate Warming Center and new Hygiene Suite. The new building would be four stories and include a full basement, for a total of 15,000 sq. ft.

**iii. Middletown Racial Justice Coalition**

The Middletown Racial Justice Coalition gave a presentation on partnering with Wesleyan University's Jewett Center for Community Partnerships and hosting a summer enrichment program at the Traverse Square housing complex, engaging children between ages 5-18 and the families who live there.

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**iv. Middletown Conn Realty LLC**

Middletown Conn Realty LLC gave a presentation on 144 units of residential housing in a mixed-use development on Newfield Street. Middletown Conn Realty would like to diversify the housing within Middletown as well as create small business opportunities that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

**B. RFQ for Consultant**

Brig Smith explained that we received 10 responses from firms and only one located in Connecticut. The Task Force needs to make a decision and recommendation on who to hire and the Mayor then would have the authority under Charter to execute a contract.

Gene Nocera suggested identifying three respondents to move the process forward as quickly as possible. Phil Pessina also supports this suggestion.

Gene Nocera made a MOTION for the working group to review the applications, make recommendations for the next Task Force meeting, and for the Task Force to make its recommendation at the next Common Council meeting. Phil Pessina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Scheduling of Upcoming Meetings**

Phil Pessina made a MOTION to get definitive dates scheduled for upcoming meetings and Rev. Moses Harvill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor talked about the next meeting possibly being on August 24, 2022.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Middlesex Redemption Center: Can and Bottle Redemption Facility**

Brig Smith explained that Middlesex Redemption Center has asked the Task Force for \$100,000 and the Working Group recommended \$80,000.

Phil Pessina made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation of \$80,000 and Kevin Elak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Community Health Center, Inc.: Vinnie's Jump-N-Jive/Middletown Family Wellness Center**

Brig Smith explained that CHC has asked the Task Force for \$81,900 and the Working Group recommended \$60,000.

Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation of \$60,000 and Phil Pessina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Report of Current Expenses and Balances**

Brig Smith informed the Task Force that we have appropriated \$11.5 million of the \$21 million. There is about \$9.5 million left, with several applications still pending.

**D. Report from Water and Sewer**

Joe Fazzino updated the Task Force on upcoming water and sewer work. He explained that they are moving forward with the work in the Oak Ridge area, which has suffered multiple water main breaks. He is working with the Finance Department to get funding for work on Basins 25, 26, and 27. The Saybrook Road water main replacement work is on hold. They are also working with the Finance Department to get a \$19M bond referendum on the ballot in November.

**6. Other**

Brianna Skowera made a MOTION for the working group to prioritize all remaining projects in excess of \$1 Million for immediate consideration and Gene Nocera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn made by Bobbye Knoll Peterson and seconded by Gene Nocera. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 12:43.