COUNCIL ARPA REVIEW COMMITTEE
July 27, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Councilman Denny Whayne Conference Room (Busch Building, 4th Floor)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Simpson, Chair; Abe McGull, Heather Hardinger, and Andrew Lear.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF/ COUNCIL PRESENT: Mike Schilling, Councilmember; Jason Gage, City Manager; Collin Quigley and Maurice Jones, Co-Deputy City Managers; Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney; Bob Belote, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Parks Public Information Administrator; Katie Towns, Director of Health; Brad Stulce, Public Health Resource Manager; David Holtmann, Director of Finance; Cora Scott, Director of Public Information Office and Civic Engagement; Melissa Haase, Assistant Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; Johnathan Saunders, Deputy City Clerk.

GUESTS: Linda Simkins.

Chairman Matthew Simpson called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m., and roll call was conducted. Present: Andrew Lear, Abe McGull, Heather Hardinger, and Matthew Simpson. Absent: None.

Chairman Simpson welcomed everyone to today's meeting. He reiterated the purpose of the Committee, noting today will be focused on larger organizational and time-sensitive items. He noted comment cards are located on the back table should anyone wish to submit comments to Council. He turned the meeting over to the City Manager.

Jason Gage, City Manger introduced Deputy City Manger Collin Quigley, noting he is the Project Coordinator regarding the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding process.

Mr. Quigley introduced Katie Towns, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, who will present their forecasted needs moving through the pandemic.

Ms. Towns noted the current pandemic is ever evolving. She expressed her gratitude in being able to revisit her departments needs today. She provided committee members with a packet regarding COVID-19 response funding needs *(See Exhibit A)*. Concluding her remarks, she introduced Brad Stulce, Public Health Resource Manager.

Mr. Stulce provided an overview of line items contained in Exhibit A, highlighting where forecasted funding needs are.

Mr. Gage asked what is being added to change the subtotal amount in certain columns. Mr. Stulce noted there is an "actual" column that is not visible on the handout that account for already made expenses, thus changing the subtotal. He noted the number committee members should refer to is in the last column on the right, "overall total".

Councilman Lear noted federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) money has been received. He asked if that is factored into the revenue line item. Mr. Stulce answered affirmatively.

Chairman Simpson noted the Health Department held a press conference today where they discussed increasing efforts to contact trace, specifically among people ages twelve and under. He asked if ARPA funds could be leveraged to assist in this effort. Ms. Towns answered affirmatively. He asked if the Health Department has considered contracting out genetic sequencing of local virus samples. Ms. Towns answered affirmatively, noting they have already entered a contract with the University of Minnesota to do just that. He asked what amount of money would be most helpful to the Health Department to cover their project needs. Ms. Towns noted it is difficult to know where the community will be health-wise in the future, given the COVID-19 variants, but ultimately their project needs at this time come with an ask of roughly eight million dollars.

Councilwoman Hardinger noted it is possible the Health Department may not use the full requested amount. She asked if that were the case, could the approved funds be leveraged elsewhere for the department. Ms. Towns answered affirmatively.

Councilman McGull noted ARPA funds are federal dollars. He asked if money that has been appropriated for a project be reallocated based on the requested need being invalidated. Mr. Gage answered affirmatively, noting that if the project meets guidelines and the timetable, money can be reallocated.

Chairman Simpson asked if COVID-19 response meets ARPA guidelines for appropriation. Mr. Gage answered affirmatively.

Councilman Lear expressed his support for allocating ARPA funds toward COVID-19 response. He asked how the Committee should proceed, noting it could be done as one big proposal with line-items, or separate proposals for each request. Mr. Quigley noted given the immediacy, the Health Department request could be set aside as a separate proposal for allocation. He expressed each proposal could come as a Council Bill that would have a budget adjustment.

Chairman Simpson asked if the bills would require two readings or could some qualify as emergency one reading bills. Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney noted two readings are required. If the Health Department intends to use the allocation in the next few weeks, it could qualify as an emergency and could be considered and adopted in one reading.

Councilman McGull asked if this proposal could take the form of a grant or resolution, thus requiring only one reading. Ms. Lewsader noted since it is an appropriation, it requires a budget adjustment and must be a two-reading ordinance.

Councilman Lear asked if the Committee approves the request and Greene County comes to us later noting they would like to do a cost-share measure, would we be able to accommodate the County. Mr. Gage answered affirmatively.

Chairman Simpson asked for a recommendation from the Committee on the proposed request.

Councilman Lear moved to appropriate the Springfield/Green County Health Department's request for funds. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardinger and approved by the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Hardinger, Lear, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None Abstain: None.

Chairman Simpson noted retention is critical for the Health Department. He asked Mr. Gage to explore opportunities to aid in said retention incentives similar to the retention incentives provided to the Police and Fire Department recruits.

Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement gave a presentation entitled "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" *(See Exhibit B).*

The following is an outline of the presentation:

A. Public Engagement Review
B. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund: Use of Funds
C. Principles to consider for use of Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
D. Public Engagement Insights: January 2018-July 2021
E. Forward SGF
F. Citizen Satisfaction Survey
G. Consolidated Plan
H. Poverty
I. Transportation
J. Maintenance of City Streets and Infrastructure
K. Transportation & Capital Improvement Sales Taxes
L. Public Transportation
M. Active Transportation
N. Walkability
O. Quality of Place
P. Regional Green Space
Q. Trails, Side Paths & Bike Facilities
R. Community Identity
S. Talent Attraction & Workforce Retention
T. Access to Healthcare
U. Summary

Ms. Scott noted she was asked to synthesize the results of both large and small-scale public engagement efforts. She provided an overview of her quantitative and qualitative results.

Regarding the topic of affordable housing *(See Exhibit B, Page 22)* Chairman Simpson asked Councilwoman Hardinger to provide insight into what a housing study might provide, given her experience with Taney County's housing study. She noted Taney County utilized RDG Planning and Design to execute a county-wide housing study. The study provided information that was then leveraged by communities within Taney County when applying for grants.

Chairman Simpson expressed his interest in learning more about their study. He asked Councilman McGull for take-aways from his recent trip to Des Moines, Iowa where he studied the community's practices regarding affordable housing. Councilman McGull provided a brief overview.

Ms. Scott noted there is opportunity to discuss this item more in-depth at a future Council Workshop.

Ms. Scott concluded her summary of findings *(See Exhibit B, Pages 38 and 39)* noting key issues and priorities identified from Forward SGF, the Consolidated Plan, and the Citizen Satisfaction Survey.

Bob Belote, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a presentation entitled "Infrastructure Opportunity: The Fieldhouse SportsCenter" *(See Exhibit C)*.

The following is an outline of the presentation:

A. Fieldhouse SportsCenter – Background Specifics
B. Fieldhouse SportsCenter Property Exhibit
C. Chesterfield Park Property Exhibit
D. Fieldhouse SportsCenter Quick Visuals
E. City Council Considerations
F. Parks Revenue

Mr. Belote noted the Naugle family approached staff regarding the potential sale of the Fieldhouse SportsCenter. He expressed the facility is in exceptionally good shape for a seven-year-old construction and has been well maintained. He highlighted the facility is the only remaining public multi-court facility in Springfield with room for future facility growth on the property. He expressed his belief the acquisition of this facility would enhance sports tourism for the region.

Councilman McGull expressed his support for the acquisition. He further expressed the additional tourism dollars being spent in our community would be welcomed.

David Holtmann, Director of Finance provided an overview of the Parks Department Revenue from FY2019-FY2021 *(See Exhibit C, Page 9)*.

Mr. Quigley noted the timeline for acquiring the facility is fairly short and would require Council action soon. Mr. Belote concurred, expressing a desire to bring forth a proposal to Council potentially within the month of August.

Councilman Lear asked for clarification on the proposed cost. Mr. Belote noted the request is for roughly two-million dollars in down payment with reoccurring payments taking effect in six years. Councilman Lear asked if the Park Board has taken their request to Greene County for potential cost-sharing opportunity. Mr. Belote noted they have engaged in conversation regarding general needs; however, this project is moving quickly, not leaving time for a formal presentation.

Mr. Holtmann noted using ARPA funds for the proposed limits the bonding that would be required if said funds are not allocated. He further noted payments on our debt service would be increased, should ARPA funds not be allocated but the project moves forward.

Chairman Simpson noted Council has yet to develop its criteria for selecting projects to use ARPA funds, however, he expressed there is an immediate need to move forward with funding time-sensitive items. He asked if it is appropriate to elevate the proposed to the full Council for consideration. Mr. Gage answered affirmatively.

Councilman McGull moved to send the proposal to Council for consideration without a Committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardinger and was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Lear, McGull, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None Abstain: None.

Mr. Gage noted the importance of collaborating with Greene County and will work with the Committee in scheduling time to meet. Chairman Simpson agreed and suggested having parallel meetings, both inter-governmental and committee. He asked committee members if they are comfortable in setting a schedule to have regular committee meetings, as well as any necessary meetings with Greene County. It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with this understanding.

Anita Cotter, City Clerk asked for clarification regarding the dates and time for the regularly scheduled Council ARPA Review Committee. Per the consensus of the Committee, Tuesday afternoons work best for their schedules.

Chairman Simpson asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman McGull made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardinger and approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, Hardinger, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None Abstain: None.

There being no further business to come before the Council ARPA Review Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.