

COUNCIL ARPA REVIEW COMMITTEE

November 2, 2021

2:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, Historic City Hall, 830 Boonville Avenue

MEMBERS

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

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None.

COUNCIL

PRESENT: None.

STAFF

PRESENT: Jason Gage, City Manager; Maurice Jones, Deputy City Manager; Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager; Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney; Lance Roskens, Assistant City Attorney; Tad Peters, Police Major; Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement; Melissa Haase, Assistant Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement; David Holtmann, Director of Finance; David Pennington, Fire Chief; Jon Mooney, Assistant Director of Health; Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; Johnathan Saunders, Deputy City Clerk.

GUESTS: Devin Keeney, IAFF Local 152; Brent Cox, IAFF Local 152; Andrew Sullender, *Springfield News-Leader*; Linda Simkins, citizen.

Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Simpson, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m., and roll call was conducted. Present: Abe McGull, Heather Hardinger, Andrew Lear, and Matthew Simpson. Absent: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the minutes from September 14, 2021, were provided to all members and asked if anyone had a motion. Councilman McGull moved to approve the minutes as presented. 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.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson welcomed everyone to today's meeting and invited Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement, to begin her presentation regarding results from the community-wide engagement survey.

Ms. Scott gave a presentation entitled "ARPA Survey Results 2021" (*See Exhibit A.*)

The following is an outline of the presentation:

- A. Overview
- B. ARPA Funding Categories Prioritized by #1 Rating
- C. ARPA Funding Categories (#1 Rating) by Respondent Attributes
- D. ARPA Funding Categories (#1 Rating) by Respondent Work Status
- E. ARPA Funding Categories Prioritized by #1 + #2 Rating
- F. ARPA Funding Categories (#1 + #2 Rating) by Respondent Attributes
- G. ARPA Funding Categories (#1 + #2 Rating) by Respondent Work Status
- H. Funding Categories That Should Receive the Most Emphasis

Ms. Scott noted the four-page questionnaire was mailed on September 27, 2021, to 5,000 randomly-selected households within the city limits of Springfield. Results from the survey are based on 1,438 completed questionnaires with a 95% confidence interval. Using a 5-point scale, residents were asked how much of a priority the Springfield City Council should place on each of eight ARPA funding categories, with 1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest.

Ms. Scott noted residents that participated in the survey assigned the category “Public Safety and Crime Prevention” as the top funding priority, followed by “Homeless and Housing Services” “Community Health and Wellness” and “Premium Pay for Essential Workers” respectively (*See Exhibit B*). She provided a breakdown of prioritization among different Council Zones and personal attributes.

Councilman Lear asked about the survey methodology. Ms. Scott noted Opinion Research Specialists, LLC, designed, administered, and analyzed the survey. It was mailed on September 27, 2021, and was to be returned by October 15, 2021. These randomly-selected residents were also given the option of completing the survey online instead of by mail. The survey had a 30.3% response rate.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his opinion there was a lot of consistency with the data results among groups. Ms. Scott concurred and noted the survey results closely mirror what citizens have been expressing verbally over the past several years.

Councilman Lear moved the Council ARPA Review Committee hold a closed meeting to discuss legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys pursuant to Section 610.021(1), RSMo. The motion was seconded by Councilman McGull and approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Lear, McGull, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

The Council ARPA Review Committee reconvened in open session at 2:54 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson welcomed everyone back to the meeting. He asked David Holtmann, Director of Finance, to discuss sales tax revenue. Mr. Holtmann provided an overview, noting revenue is up from previous projections. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson inquired if mid-year pay

increases were feasible for City staff. Mr. Holtmann noted there is a lag in data collected by several months: however, it was possible.

Councilman Lear expressed his opinion the Committee should focus on police retention and would like to see premium pay increases for front line workers over the next three years. He asked for clarification on how many staff that would affect. Darla Morrison, Director of Human Resources, noted the Police, Fire, and Health Departments would encompass 754 employees. He asked if employees were given \$6,000, what would the total cost be for the City. Ms. Morrison noted the total cost to the City would be approximately \$2.4 million not including fringe benefits.

Councilman McGull expressed his opinion public safety is important. He further expressed his opinion the data from the survey suggests to him the quality of life for Springfieldians is good.

Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her opinion front line worker retention should be a top priority.

Councilman Lear cautioned members of the Committee to exercise prudence with spending. He expressed his agreement front line worker retention should be a priority.

The Committee members discussed the potential breakdown of premium pay should a motion be made to send a proposal to the full City Council. Following the conversation, Councilwoman Hardinger made a motion for the following proposal to be presented to the full City Council: \$6,000 total for staff in the Police, Fire, and Health Departments, with \$1,000 provided up front in the first year, \$1,000 distributed over bi-weekly payments in the first year, and \$2,000 distributed in bi-weekly payments the second and third years. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lear and approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Lear, McGull, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Councilman Lear moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman McGull and approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Lear, McGull, 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 3:30 p.m.