COUNCIL ARPA REVIEW COMMITTEE
June 23, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Denny Whayne Conference Room, 4th Floor, Busch Municipal Building
840 Boonville Avenue

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Ken McClure and Councilwoman Monica Horton.

STAFF PRESENT: Jason Gage, City Manager; Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager; Miles Park, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Kate Francis, Museum Affairs Officer; Nick Nelson, Director of Art Museum; Jon Mooney, Assistant Director of Health; Katie Towns, Director of Health; Brian Weiler, Director of Aviation; Toby Stevenson, Accounting Supervisor; Jody Vernon, Assistant Director of Finance; David Holtmann, Director of Finance; Jill Burris, Assistant City Attorney; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; Julie Greer, Deputy City Clerk.

GUESTS: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Simpson, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:30 p.m., and roll call was conducted. Present: Andrew Lear, Abe McGull, Heather Hardinger, and Matthew Simpson. Absent: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the minutes from April 19, 2022, were provided to all members and asked if any revisions were needed. Councilman McGull moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lear and was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Lear, McGull, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted everyone had been busy since the last meeting and thanked staff members for their work. He added the ARPA funding bill had been passed by the State and was currently on the Governor's desk for his signature. Through this legislation, everyone has been able to learn what City requests were met and what other Springfield entities received ARPA funding. One of the primary goals of the committee has always been to leverage as much external money as possible.

Additionally, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted Greene County had made decisions on their allocations for capital projects; the County had taken a complimentary approach and put funds

into direct aid for small businesses and non-profits, as well as having direct aid available for rental assistance and individual needs.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked that the City Manager and Deputy City Manager review the State and County allocations. After reviewing State and County funding, the Committee should be able to make recommendations for distributing the City's funds. He recommended the Committee members come to a consensus on funding disbursement and send a recommendation to the full Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted funds had already been allocated for retention payments for first responders and health workers, and $8 million had been allocated to the Health Department during the Delta surge. He added the Heath Department had been very successful in obtaining grants, so it has not had to use any of the allocated $8 million; it might be possible to go ahead and reallocate some of that money and just leave $2-3 million available for Health Department contingency needs.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked the Committee members to review the project matrix to determine funding and noted they should look at the requests in light of priorities identified by the community and priorities identified by City Council in terms of community priorities, and to consider the objectives identified by the ARPA statute. He asked them to consider ways to leverage the City funds into more money through external matches.

Jason Gage, City Manager, reviewed the updated spreadsheet. Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager, noted a few changes had been made to the request spreadsheet. The non-profit section has been broken out as its own section. Requests from Burrell for a helpline and from Council of Churches for a math and reading buddy tutoring program had been added. The request information was provided. A few requestors had changed their funding requests due to additional information being received.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson thanked staff members for their work on this project and thanked everyone who applied for funding. He noted the total of the requests far exceeded the funds available, and it would be necessary to apply established criteria as decisions are made. Not allocating funding for a project should not be seen as a negative reflection on the project. He noted there will also be additional rounds of State funding available.

Councilman Lear noted $5.9 million was allocated for retention payments for certain employees and asked if that amount is still on track. David Holtmann, Director of Finance, answered affirmatively, noting it is still a good estimate at this point.

Jason Gage, City Manager, reviewed a list of projects the State had funded, which are all subject to the Governor's approval:

- $5 million for the Commercial Street Footbridge
- $7.3 million to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board for the Cooper/Killian complex project ($9.8 million match required – CVB may have raised $2.5 million in private funds for this – so City's match would be $7.3 million.)
- $7.5 million for Jordan Creek Renewal

$30 million to Missouri State University for a Grand Street Underpass (requested match is $750,000)
$5 million to Ozarks Technical Community College Center (OTC) for Excellence for airframe and power plant maintenance at the Springfield-Branson National Airport (requested match is $750,000) Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted he would recuse himself from any discussion or decision regarding OTC.
$500,000 to Discovery Center project (no match requested)
$10 million to Ozark Empire Fairgrounds for arena project (Mr. Gage noted this is in addition to the $5 million appropriated last year.) The County also allocated funding for this project.
$6 million to Springfield-Greene County Library for community programming space and other minor pieces.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson reviewed the State funding list and compared it to the requests the City had received, starting with the $7.3 million match required for the entire Killian/Cooper complex. He noted the City had already committed $5 million for the Cooper/Killian complex without having a funding source. Councilman McGull expressed his support for expending these one-time funds to expand the Cooper facility, as it will bring in new revenue for the City from the traveling soccer players and families. He noted he had been told that artificial turf would mitigate many issues the facility currently experiences.

Councilman Lear asked about the requirement for matches required by the State. Mr. Gage responded the bill just calls for a local match. Councilman Lear expressed his support for this project, noting it has the greatest potential to generate revenue. He asked if there were any other funding sources that could be used for this, such as ¼ cent, ½ cent, or carry-over funds. Mr. Gage responded using ARPA funding would be the safest approach, as it is still early in trying to determine how inflationary impacts with contracting will affect contracts for publicly-promised projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the Jordan Valley Creek Stormwater match of $500,000 and asked if ARPA funding is the best source. Mr. Gage responded affirmatively, noting he would be hesitant to start reducing the fund balances for the committed projects.

Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her opinion it would be appropriate, as this is a large project that should be adequately funded. She noted it would be a benefit from quality of life and health perspectives. She expressed her support for this allocation.

Councilman Lear asked if the State funds are eligible for use for stormwater and quality of life aspects. Mr. Gage responded the State funds were not earmarked. Councilman Lear expressed his support for this project but noted he may want to be able to re-evaluate as the Committee members worked through the list. Councilman McGull asked about the possibility of shifting or reprogramming funds once they're allocated. Mr. Gage responded there would be some flexibility if the funds were connected to City capital improvement projects; however, Committee members may not want to make changes to funding allocated to outside entities once funding agreements are in place.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if there were any concerns with allocating $500,000 for the Jordan Valley project; none of the Committee members noted concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the next project for consideration was the $750,000 match required for Missouri State University. He noted Greene County had allocated $1.45 million for the Jordan Valley Innovation Center. Councilman Lear noted he had no objections. Councilmembers McGull and Hardinger were in agreement. Councilman Lear noted this would be leveraging funds as the group intended.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted he would be recusing himself from the discussion and determination regarding the funding for the Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) project at the Springfield-Branson National Airport. Councilman Lear was designated Chair, and Mayor Pro Tem Simpson left the room.

Brian Weiler, Director of Aviation, noted the requested $750,000 in ARPA funds are for a stand-alone program which would complement the pilot training program. Councilwoman Hardinger noted these types of positions are in high demand, and there is no other training program in the region. Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her support for this funding. Councilmen Lear and McGull expressed their support for this funding, with Councilman McGull noting these are high-paying jobs. Councilman Lear noted that OTC and Missouri State University (MSU) both received ARPA funding, but most of that went directly to students.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson was called back into the conference room and informed of the funding approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson said the Discovery Center had not submitted a local match request yet to the to the City; the State allocated $500,000 for capital renovations to the center. Councilman McGull commended the Discovery Center for their work providing childcare during the pandemic and recommended this expenditure. Councilman Lear noted the Discovery Center was doing a lot of work with education on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM). Mayor Pro Tem Simpson recommended allocating $50,000. Committee members agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds received $5 million from the State that passed through the City last year and $10 million this year that has a general local match requirement. Mr. Gage noted Greene County allocated $5 million. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted $2 million has been raised via private funds for this project, leaving a request to the City of $3 million. Mr. Gage noted that $22 million out of $26 million had been allocated or raised for this project. Councilwoman Hardinger recommended $250,000 for this project instead of the requested $500,000 since it was already well-funded and there were other needs/requests. Councilman Lear expressed his support for the Fairgrounds and noted Parks was being funded at a high level. Councilwoman Hardinger recommended tentatively marking $250,000 in funding for this project. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted his understanding that the fair leases the land from the City, and any improvements are owned by the City. Mr. Gage responded in agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the Springfield-Greene County Library has requested a $500,000 allocation to be used as a match for renovations at the Midtown-Carnegie Library, renovations at the Library Station, and adding community space at the Library Center. Councilman McGull expressed his opinion this was a reasonable amount and noted the Library's community contributions, especially during the pandemic. Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her opinion the libraries are the heartbeat of the community and serve as a gathering place for the community. Councilman Lear expressed his opinion the Midtown-Carnegie library needs upgrades and noted he was very supportive.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted with the above allocations, the remaining balance is at $21.2 to $22.2 million, and that covered all of the State-funded items. Mr. Quigley asked how much Mayor Pro Tem Simpson was holding from the $8 million originally allocated to the Health Department. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson responded $2 to $3 million. Mr. Gage noted he would like to keep the amount as close to $3 million as possible.

Mr. Gage reviewed the following allocations made by Greene County:

$855,670	to Greene County Family Justice Center
$475,000	to Habitat for Humanity
$475,000	to OTC
$475,000	to Missouri State University (MSU)
$2,000,000	to Boys' and Girls Club of Springfield
$5,325,000	to Burrell (youth behavioral health facility)
$5,000,000	to Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
$4,500,000	to Vecino Group housing project
$1,500,000	to Neighborhood Coalition Group
$1,000,000	to Council of Churches of the Ozarks

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his appreciation to Greene County Commissioner Bob Dixon for inviting and allowing him to sit in during the County's decision-making process.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted many of the County allocations did not have a corresponding City request; however, the County allocated $2,000,000 to the Boys and Girls Club, and there was also a request to the City for funds. He recommended matching the County's allocation, as the funds would be used for Foster Adopt Connect, among other partners, and are working on housing security for youth and comprehensive programming for teens. Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her support for this project; she noted she had the opportunity to visit the Teen Center in St. Louis and observed the benefits. Councilman Lear noted public safety/crime prevention was number one on the ARPA community surveyand homeless/housing was number two; he expressed his opinion this project would address both of those needs. Councilman Lear asked how this project would compare with the current Rare Breed project. Councilwoman Hardinger responded that she felt the projects would be complimentary, with the teen center being more program-oriented and comprehensive, but there could be a partnership. Councilman McGull expressed his support for this, noting the great reputation of the Boys' and Girls Club. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his opinion that this would meet the requirement of being a transformative project. Seeing no objection, Mayor Pro Tem Simpson added the $2,000,000 match to the allocation list.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the Habitat for Humanity request and added the Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO) is working on a study on housing and homeless services. Mr. Quigley noted the report should be finalized and presented to the CFO by the end of July.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson recommended the group create a funding allocation for the housing/homeless services category so the funds can be best allocated when the results of the survey are received. This would be in addition to the $1.5 million already allocated and the $3.8 million received from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Home Grant. Councilman Lear noted there are a number of potential entities to receive funding and expressed his opinion that the Committee should set aside a significant amount of money and wait on the results of the study. He noted the possibility that requests could be scaled. Mr. Gage noted there is not enough funding to meet the $50 million or more in requests; the City and applying entities will need to determine where the available funds can be used to make the biggest impact.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted all County funding had been considered and referred everyone to the funding matrix. He recommended the Committee allocate $500,000 to fund a housing study. Councilwoman Hardinger noted she highly recommended this and considered it a timely request. Councilman Lear noted the group could not make progress until they knew the situation.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the Restore SGF project had requested $1,000,000 to match the donations through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and commitments from banks. He noted this would also address the housing issue. Councilman McGull expressed his opinion this is a local project that would benefit the community. Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her support for this project. Councilman Lear expressed his support for this funding.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked if it would be better to hold the funding until the housing study is released. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson suggested allocating the funds due to the potential matches. Councilman Lear expressed his opinion this is something already up and going that needs to be supported.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked Mr. Gage if the City received a request from Vecino Group. Mr. Gage responded that they had not.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson reviewed items on the City list which had not been allocated funding yet. Ozark Greenways requested $4 million for the Chadwick Flyer; this is a regional trail which as components in Springfield, Greene County, and Christian County. Greene County did not fund this project during this round, but there is still an opportunity to fund the City portion.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if everyone was comfortable with him penciling in $7 million to hold for homeless services. Councilman Lear noted he would like to have $12 million in reserve.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the Art Museum project had not received a City allocation yet. This is a project that provides quality of place, a resource for the community, and education. The request was for $4.8 million. He suggested allocating $4 million to the Art Museum and $3 million to the Chadwick Flyer. With those allocations, that would leave $3.7 million.

Councilman McGull noted Historic City Hall is in need of renovation and has been on the list for a long time. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted level property tax funds are assigned for Historic City Hall. Mr. Quigley noted the project will be about $10 million total; a little over $6 million has been allocated via level property tax, so about $4 million is still needed. Mr. Gage noted that project is already programmed through level property tax, and there are plans for a bond issue. It is on a timeline. There are options, one of which is debt issuance, but there are ongoing costs for repayment, and that involves interest. Mr. Quigley said bonds will be issued next February for projects, including Old City Hall.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson then recommended allocating $4 million for the Old City Hall renovation, $3 million for the Art Museum project, and $3 million for the Chadwick Flyer. Councilman Lear noted he agreed that Historic City Hall needs renovations, and it would probably be easier to raise private funds for the Art Museum than Historic City Hall. He also noted he would like to see the Chadwick Flyer funded. Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her opinion that greenways contribute greatly to quality of life; she recommended allocating funding for greenways. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted greenways would also serve those who do not have or do not want to utilize vehicles to get around. Councilwoman Hardinger noted this would also be a health and wellness issue. After discussion, the consensus of the Committee members was to allocate $4 million for Historic City Hall, $3 million for the Art Museum, and $3 million for greenways.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson reviewed the Family Connects program request. He noted this is a model that has been developed and proven in other cities; the Health Department has worked to obtain external funding for this. The current request is $650,000 which would be for a four-year pilot program.

Katie Towns, Director of Health and Public Welfare, provided an overview of this program. This is a program the Health Department worked on prior to the pandemic. It is a program out of Duke University that just became its own non-profit. It consists of a nurse home visit for every child born in the county to assess need and risk and provide support and connection. It focuses on the critical zero to three years of age time period. The Health Department currently has a nurse home visitation program which would partner with the Family Connects program. It would also work closely with Parents As Teachers and other programs in the community. Mercy, Cox, and Jordan Valley are all supportive. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson recommended allocating $650,000 for the Family Connects program. Councilman McGull expressed his support. Councilman Lear noted this would have a huge impact on the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson reviewed the request from Burrell for $100,000 to turn its 24/7 crisis line into a 24/7 mental health help line so issues could be addressed before turning into crisis situations. This would be a pilot program with the potential to turn into a permanent program. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson recommended approving $100,000 in funding. Councilman McGull expressed his opinion this pilot program would be very beneficial to the community. Councilwoman Harding expressed her support of the program. Councilman Lear expressed his opinion that this is a necessary thing.

Councilman Lear recapped the allocation decisions by category:

$855,670	to Greene County Family Justice Center
$13,300,000	to tourism
$3,000,000	to greenways
$3,000,000	to Art Museum
$7,300,000	to Killian/Cooper
$12,300,000	set aside for homeless/housing
$2,000,000	Boys & Girls Clubs for homeless/housing
$4,000,000	for Historic City Hall
$650,000	Family Connect (health)
$100,000	Burrell (mental health)

He noted some may fall into more than one category, and a total of 15 projects would receive funding with these allocations.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked about the process for distribution, noting that the funds should be dispersed in ongoing payments as work is completed. Mr. Gage recommended bringing the team together to work through an allocation agreement and determine the best approach to distribute the funds to each entity.

Councilman Lear noted that there would need to be project management, so the City does not run into auditing issues in the future. Mr. Quigley said they would review the options.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked for a motion recommending Council adoption of the funding allocations determined at today's meeting, reallocating $4,973,710 from the Covid Response Fund, and following staff recommendations on disbursement procedures and accountability measures. Councilwoman Hardinger made the motion. Councilman McGull seconded the motion, and it was discussed.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his appreciation to staff members and Committee members for their work on this project throughout the past year. He expressed his opinion that the lives of generations will be better because of these projects. He noted that the lack of funding for certain projects did not mean that the project was not worthy; there were not enough funds to meet all of the requests.

Councilman Lear noted that the ripple effect of the City and County ARPA funds would have a leveraging impact far beyond what is seen on paper. He expressed his opinion this will have a significant impact beyond the entities which are being funded, and it is eye opening that there are still so many unfunded needs. He recommended seeking additional grants and looking for opportunities to leverage. Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her agreement and noted this is a huge investment into the quality of the community; it speaks volumes that there are organizations in Springfield who care about people and want to do more to support them.

Councilman McGull noted that since the Committee would be voting on the total recommendation, including the OTC funding, it would have to just be Councilwoman Harding, Councilman Lear, and himself voting since Mayor Pro Tem Simpson had recused himself.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson requested staff direction. Assistant City Attorney Jill Burris recommended having two motions, one with just the OTC portion and one with the other funding.

Councilwoman Hardinger withdrew her motion. Councilman McGull withdrew his second of the original motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson requested a motion to recommend to Council adoption of all of the funding items with the exception of the AMP project at the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport, reallocating $4,973,710 from the Covid Response Fund, and following staff recommendations on disbursement procedures and accountability measures. Councilwoman Hardinger made the motion. Councilman McGull seconded. The motion was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Lear, McGull, Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted he was recusing himself from the vote regarding the OTC project at the Springfield-Branson National Airport. He appointed Councilman Lear as Chair and stepped out of the room.

Councilman Lear requested a motion to approve the AMP project at OTC in the amount of $750,000. Councilman McGull made the motion. Councilwoman Hardinger seconded. The motion was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Lear, McGull, and Hardinger. Nays: None. Absent: Simpson. Abstain: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson was called back into the room. He expressed his appreciation to everyone for their work over the past year.

Councilman Lear moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman McGull and approved by the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Hardinger, Lear, 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 4:12 p.m.