COUNCIL ARPA REVIEW COMMITTEE
January 11, 2024
12:00 p.m.
Denny Whayne Conference Room, 4th Floor, Busch Municipal Building
840 Boonville Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Simpson, Chair; Heather Hardinger; and Callie Carroll.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Abe McGull.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Councilman Derek Lee.

STAFF PRESENT: Jason Gage, City Manager; Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager; Maurice S. Jones, Deputy City Manager; Steve Childers, Director of Planning and Development; Jordan Paul, City Attorney; David Holtmann, Director of Finance; Bob Jones, Grants Administrator; Bob Atchley, Senior City Planner; Cora Scott, Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement; Melissa Haase, Assistant Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; and Julie Greer, Deputy City Clerk.

GUESTS: Jack McGee, *Springfield Daily Citizen*; and Marta Mieze, *Springfield News-Leader*.

Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Simpson, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Roll call was conducted. Present: Callie Carroll, Heather Hardinger, and Matthew Simpson. Absent: Abe McGull.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson pointed out the availability of sign-in sheets, printed materials, and comment cards.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson recognized Councilwoman Callie Carroll as a new member of the Committee. He noted the Committee was tasked by the full Council to make recommendations on how to best utilize the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the City by the federal government. He further noted the Committee's charge was to focus on projects which would have a transformative impact, with an emphasis on projects where the ARPA funding could be used as a catalyst with other external funding. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson explained, in so doing, the Committee was able to make the local funds go further by matching other funding for several projects. He noted the Committee had also been guided by the citizen survey which identified and prioritized the needs in the community which could be addressed by ARPA funds. He explained public safety, housing and homeless services, public health, and quality of place were identified as top needs.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson explained the majority of the funding the City had received had been allocated. He anticipated there would be a meeting scheduled soon for the Committee to receive an update on the quarterly reports regarding the funded projects.

He noted approximately $2 million of the ARPA funding had not been allocated. He explained the purpose of today's meeting was to follow up regarding the full City Council discussion on Monday regarding funds allocated for non-congregate shelter space. He further explained three applications were received, and staff recommended awarding funding for two of them. He noted the third application was from the Council of Churches for the Safe to Sleep program; it did not score as high and was not awarded funding. However, since there were remaining contingency ARPA funds, the Committee could review the Council of Churches application to determine if the members would like to recommend awarding some of the available funds for that project. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson then turned the meeting over to Jason Gage, City Manager.

Mr. Gage asked David Holtmann, Finance Director, to give a report regarding the total funds distributed and the remaining balances.

Mr. Holtmann reported there was approximately $2,570,257 in unallocated funding, including the amount originally reserved for Health Department needs.

Mr. Gage noted the funds reserved for the Health Department some time ago could be used for health or other needs at this point since the public health need had passed. He then turned the meeting over to Bob Jones, Grants Administrator.

Mr. Jones provided a brief overview of the previously-awarded ARPA funding. He noted staff had originally recommended funding be awarded to the Salvation Army, which scored the highest upon evaluation, and to the Women's Medical Respite, which ranked second upon evaluation. Mr. Jones reported most of the women's medical respite expenses listed in the proposal were ineligible for ARPA funding, so the full amount requested could not be awarded.

Mr. Jones noted the Safe to Sleep proposal had been provided to the Committee members. They had also been provided a study completed by Drury architectural students, at the request of the Council of Churches, regarding an analysis of different location options for the new shelter.

Mr. Jones provided a brief review of the Safe to Sleep proposal provided by the Council of Churches. The proposal included the purchase and renovation of a building near their headquarters facility, listing a proposed budget of $5,581,800, with $2,500,000 designated for acquisition, $3,376,800 designated for renovation, and $5,000 designated for architectural fees. The sources of funding listed were $1.1 million from City ARPA funding, $1.9 million from the Department of Economic Development ARPA funding, and $2,881,800 from donors and other sources.

Mr. Jones noted the Council of Churches reviewed the Drury study regarding the potential locations. After consideration, they proposed the purchase of a facility just west of their headquarters which was not part of the Drury study. He further noted this would create a permanent location in which the Safe to Sleep program could operate; the program currently

operates out of a church. Another benefit of the permanent location would be the ability to expand assistance programs to the women who currently use the shelter. Currently, the women have to exit the facility in the mornings. A new, permanent facility could also offer storage for the women. Additionally, a permanent shelter would allow the ability to provide meals for the women utilizing the shelter.

Mr. Jones pointed out two of the three locations considered for a permanent facility were currently occupied with commercial tenants. If one of those locations had been selected, the current tenants would have to be relocated.

Mr. Gage asked for clarification regarding the initial competitive scoring process regarding the applications for funding. Mr. Jones explained the initial evaluation process was competitive and used a series of ten ranking factors. Five staff members independently reviewed and scored the proposals. They then discussed the differences, and final scores were determined. He noted the Salvation Army proposal received the highest score, with the Women's Medical Respite proposal in second place with 50 fewer points, and the proposal from the Council of Churches scored in third place with 50 fewer points than the Women's Medical Respite proposal. The Salvation Army had requested all of the $1.8 million available, but since the request from the Women's Medical Respite was a small amount, staff recommended making the adjustment.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked for verification that there were no federal funding restrictions which would affect the proposal from the Council of Churches. Mr. Jones responded there were no ineligible expenses.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked for verification this proposal was for the purchase and construction of a permanent location, verifying this would be a capital project which would move the program from a temporary location to a permanent location so it could be considered a project with a lasting impact. Mr. Jones responded affirmatively. There were no other questions for Mr. Jones.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his opinion the City had the funds available to fund this request and noted he understood the scoring decisions. The Salvation Army proposal added capacity; the Council of Churches proposal would not add capacity but would take temporary capacity and make it permanent. He noted the proposal did meet the match criteria since there was $1.9 million in funding from the State. He further noted housing and homelessness was the second-highest rated category in the citizen survey. He expressed his opinion the proposal met all of the Committee's criteria. Given the funds were available and the limited timeframe to spend the funds, he expressed his opinion it made sense to allocate the funding for this request.

Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Simpson. She noted she had served as a volunteer for the Safe to Sleep program and was familiar with the current situation. She explained church space was currently being utilized, which was a shared space, and there were stipulations associated with that. In addition to the risk of not having a space at all and not having a shelter primarily for women, the women had to wait until the part of the church being utilized by others became available. Councilwoman Hardinger expressed her opinion the churches have been very generous in providing services to Safe to Sleep, but there

were times over the years when program participants had to shuffle between different churches across town. She expressed her opinion having a dedicated space for the woman made a lot of sense; it was important to note this was the only homeless service specifically for women. She noted she has had the opportunity to build relationships with women in the shelter over the years, and expressed her opinion this is a service which saves lives. She said if the Committee had the capacity to provide ARPA funding for this project, it would have impactful benefit to the community. She acknowledged these would not be new beds, but if the community were to lose the shelter, it would have detrimental impact on those who rely on these services. She expressed her support of funding this proposal with leftover ARPA funds.

Councilwoman Carroll expressed her agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Simpson and Councilwoman Hardinger. She noted she had previously served on the Council of Churches Board and had seen firsthand all of the impact the Council of Churches has. She expressed her opinion one of the other things she saw as a positive impact was the ability to get the shelter in close proximity to the Council of Churches headquarters in order to help establish a "one stop shop" to help give people a hand up. She expressed her support for this program and agreed it should be funded if the money were available.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted it appeared there was a very strong consensus to approve the allocation for funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the minutes of the October 11, 2022, meeting had been provided for the Committee's consideration. Councilwoman Hardinger moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilwoman Carroll seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Carroll, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: McGull. Abstain: None.

Councilwoman Hardinger moved the Committee recommend to City Council to allocate $1.1 million of the remaining ARPA funds to fund the Council of Churches Safe to Sleep program. Councilwoman Carrol seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Carroll, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: McGull. Abstain: None.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked Mr. Gage if any further action was needed from the Committee members regarding this proposal. Mr. Gage responded negatively. Mr. Gage noted the item would be on the February 2024 City Council Meeting Agendas for first and second readings.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked Mr. Gage to notify the full Council and the applicant of the Committee's decision. Mr. Gage responded affirmatively.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked when the Committee members could expect to receive the next quarterly report. Mr. Holtmann responded the general ledger for the fourth quarter of 2024 had just closed on January 10, 2024. He noted a review of the final quarter should be completed and ready to present to the Committee within a week. He further noted he would provide the report as soon as it was available, and the report would also include an update on activity regarding previous awards. Mayor Pro Tem asked staff to schedule another Committee meeting to review the progress of the dollars previously awarded.

Mayor Pro Tem noted, with the Committee's focus on matching, they had been working closely with partners in the state legislature regarding State funding awarded locally which required local matches. He expressed his opinion, heading into the new legislative cycle, the Committee may not need to hold additional funds in reserve for matches and may need to consider allocating the remaining funds soon in order to meet the obligation to spend them by the designated deadline.

Councilwoman Hardinger moved to adjourn. Councilwoman Carroll seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hardinger, Carroll, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: McGull. Abstain: None.

There being no further business to come before the City Council ARPA Review Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Prepared by Julie Greer