

## **COUNCIL ARPA REVIEW COMMITTEE**

February 15, 2024

12:30 p.m.

Councilman Denny Whayne Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Busch Municipal Building  
840 Boonville Avenue

### **MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Matthew Simpson, Chair; Heather Hardinger; Abe McGull; and Callie Carroll.

### **MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** None.

### **COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:** None.

### **STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager; Maurice S. Jones, Deputy City Manager; Jordan Paul, City Attorney; David Holtmann, Director of Finance; Bob Jones, Grants Administrator; Melissa Haase, Assistant Director of Public Information and Civic Engagement; Jody Vernon, Assistant Director of Finance and Comptroller; Tona Bowen, Financial Analyst; Jennifer Swan, Registered Architect; Nick Nelson, Director of Art Museum; Katie Towns, Director of Public Health and Welfare; Miles Park, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Jim Fischer, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation; Brett Foster, Traffic Engineer; Tom Dancey, Principal Engineer; Chris Dunnaway, Principal Engineer; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; and Julie Greer, Deputy City Clerk.

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

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Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Simpson, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:34 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He pointed out the sign-in sheets and the availability of comment forms.

Councilman McGull moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting as presented. Councilwoman Carroll seconded the motion, and it was approved with the following vote: Ayes: Carroll, McGull, Hardinger, and Simpson. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Anita Cotter, City Clerk, noted the record would reflect the presence of each Committee member.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson turned the meeting over to David Holtmann, Director of Finance, to provide today's presentation regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects and expenditures.

Mr. Holtmann explained the City was awarded approximately \$40,276,000 in ARPA funding just over three years ago. He noted today would be an update on the status of the previously-allocated funds and discussion regarding allocation of the remaining funds. He noted \$13.6 million had been awarded for external partner projects and compliance while \$25.2 million had been allocated for City projects. The remaining amount to be awarded was \$1.4 million.

Mr. Holtmann reviewed each partner project, noting the amount allocated, the amount expended to date, and the remaining balance for each project. He noted a total of \$13.6 million had been allocated for external partner projects.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$2 million had been awarded to the Boys and Girls Club for a teen facility. To date, \$900,000 had been expended, with \$1.1 million remaining. A groundbreaking for the facility was scheduled for February 15, 2024.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$3 million had been awarded to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO) for a day center. To date, there had been no expenditures. He explained CPO was looking for a property. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if Mr. Holtmann had any concerns with the organization being able to spend the funds within the required timeline. Mr. Holtmann expressed his opinion the project was on track.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$150,000 had been awarded to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for a playground. He reported the full amount had been expended, and the project had been completed.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$3 million had been awarded to Ozark Greenways for the Chadwick Flyer Trail. To date, \$339,000 had been expended, with \$2.7 million remaining. Mr. Holtmann reported the organization was in the process of coordinating with the railroad.

Councilman McGull noted negotiations with the railroad could be lengthy and asked if Ozark Greenways had indicated this could be a problem. Jody Vernon, Assistant Director of Finance and Comptroller, reported Ozark Greenways was working with the City, and Jason Gage, City Manager, had been involved. She added there was a regular update meeting regarding this project scheduled for early March.

Brett Foster, Traffic Engineer, noted there would still be a plan to use the funds if Ozark Greenways was unable to negotiate with the railroad regarding the right-of-way. He explained the group would utilize the funds for a full design of the corridor in a planning study.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$750,000 had been awarded to Missouri State University for the Grand Street underpass. He reported \$750,000 had been expended, and the project had been completed.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$100,000 had been awarded to the Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. To date, \$53,000 had been expended, with \$47,000 remaining. Mr. Holtmann noted headstone maintenance and cleanup work was expected to be completed in the spring. He explained it was not anticipated there would be a problem using the remaining funds.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$250,000 had been awarded to the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds for the arena project. To date, \$250,000 had been expended, and the project had been completed. He explained the project was also awarded \$10 million in State ARPA funding which was passed through the City. He noted the payment was pending final payment approval from FORVIS and reimbursement from the State.

Councilman McGull noted he had attended an event at the new area, and there were people from all over, making an economic impact with their spending. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted a BMX event was scheduled to be held soon in the new arena.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$1 million had been awarded to Restore SGF. To date, \$60,000 had been expended, with \$940,000 remaining. He further noted Brendan Griesemer, the City's former Assistant Director of Planning and Development, was now serving as the Executive Director of Restore SGF.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$750,000 had been awarded to Ozarks Technical College (OTC) for an Airframe and Power Plant Maintenance Facility. He explained two payments totaling \$750,000 were pending approval for payment.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted he had recused himself on that item previously and would recuse himself from any discussion on that award.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$566,600 had been awarded to The Connecting Grounds. He noted \$480,700 had been expended to date, with \$85,900 remaining.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$500,000 had been awarded to the Springfield-Greene County Library. There had been no expenditures to date. He explained it was anticipated the project would go out for bids in March of 2024.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$100,000 had been awarded to Burrell Behavioral Health for a crisis line. To date, \$60,000 had been expended, with \$40,000 remaining.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$50,000 had been awarded to the Discovery Center for an infrastructure project. No expenditures had been made to date; however, a reimbursement request was in process.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$320,000 had been allocated to FORVIS for grant compliance services. To date, \$207,000 had been expended, with \$113,000 remaining.

Mr. Holtmann noted there was a pending Council Bill allocating \$1.1 million for congregate shelters. The bill was scheduled for second reading at the February 26, 2024, City Council meeting.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$25.2 had been allocated for City projects, and he reviewed the status of each project.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$7.3 million had been awarded for Cooper/Killian Parks projects. To date, \$339,000 had been expended, with \$6,961,000 remaining. Mr. Holtmann explained very positive bids had been received.

Miles Park, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, noted five bids were received, with the lowest bid in the amount of \$9.9 million. The Parks Department was very pleased with the bid results and was in the process of checking references. Mr. Park noted Parks would be recommending acceptance in the near future after reference checks were completed.

Mr. Holtmann asked for clarification regarding the estimated total for the project, noting he recalled it was about \$12 million. Mr. Park responded affirmatively, noting approximately \$12 million had been allocated for construction, and the bids received were well within that amount.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$5.9 million had been allocated for employee retention payments to employees in the Police, Fire, and Health Departments. To date, 3,815,000 had been dispersed, with \$2,085,000 remaining. He explained the City had made two of the three annual retention payments, with the final payment scheduled to be made at the end of February 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the allocation provided \$2,000 per year lump sum retention payments for employees in each of those departments in recognition of their front-line roles in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and as a response to retention challenges in those areas. He expressed his opinion this would be something to review as City Council considers approaches to improve employee retention.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$4 million had been allocated for the renovation of Historic City Hall. To date, \$28,900 had been expended, with \$3,971,000 remaining. He explained these funds were in addition to the bond funding and Level Property Tax funds budgeted for this project. He noted some of the unallocated ARPA funding could be used as additional funding for this project.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$3 million had been allocated for the Art Museum education wing. To date, \$237,900 had been expended, with \$2,762,610 remaining. Nick Nelson, Director of Art Museum, noted he was working through schematic design and anticipated construction would begin in December of 2024. He added there were no concerns about the timeline for the project.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$2,785,297 had been allocated for non-congregate shelters. No expenditures had been made to date.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$650,000 had been awarded to the Springfield-Greene County Health Department for the Family Connects program. He explained the funds were originally awarded to Jordan Valley Health, but the Springfield-Greene County Health Department had taken over the project. To date, \$12,950 had been expended, with \$637,050 remaining.

Councilwoman Carroll asked about the status of the funds for the non-congregate shelters.

Bob Jones, Grants Administrator, explained the original allocation of \$2.7 million was earmarked for The Kitchen's shelter development. The Kitchen, Inc., received funds from the

Department of Economic Development (DED) which freed up \$1.9 million of the original allocation from the City. The City then re-allocated some of the freed-up funds for congregate shelter; the award documents have been prepared and sent to The Kitchen, Inc. The Kitchen, Inc., was currently responding to requests from the DED for additional information. He noted the project was already shovel ready, but The Kitchen, Inc., was required to go out for bids for an architect even though the project had already been designed. He further noted, the City went out for proposals to allocate the remaining \$1.9 million, and City Council approved the allocation of \$1.8 million to the Salvation Army and Women's Medical Respite. He explained the Law Department had approved the agreement forms; they would be sent out soon, and then the funds would be committed.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$564,703 had been allocated for the affordable housing home ownership program. No expenditures had been made to date. He asked Mr. Jones for additional information about the project.

Mr. Jones explained the City had received proposals from Restore SGF for \$466,000 for down payment assistance and from Springfield Community Land Trust. The agreement for Restore SGF had been fully prepared and signed; the project was up and running. The Springfield Land Trust agreement was currently in process.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$500,000 had been allocated for the Renew Jordan Creek project. No expenditures had been made to date. Chris Dunnaway, Principal Engineer, noted a presentation to City Council on this topic was scheduled for February 20, 2024.

Mr. Holtmann noted \$500,000 had been allocated for the city-wide Housing Study. No expenditures had been made to date. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson noted the Housing Study had been completed and asked when the expenditure would appear. Mr. Holtmann responded he would investigate and provide the information.

Councilman McGull noted he would like to have information regarding the number and types of jobs created and the payroll amounts related to the funding provided for the ARPA projects. He further noted the information could be obtained from the contracts for the work. Councilman McGull explained he would like to know how much of the funds went back into the local community. Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his agreement that would be good information to have and to share.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if Mr. Holtmann was concerned about any of the projects not meeting the required timelines.

Mr. Holtmann responded the federal obligation deadline for these funds was December 31, 2024. All ARPA funds must be obligated by this date or be returned to the federal government. He noted there was also a provision which would allow two additional years for projects which had funds obligated. In order to be considered obligated, there had to be an order placed for items or property or there had to be a signed and executed contract for services to be performed. He explained just budgeting the funds did not meet either of these criteria. Mr. Holtmann noted City

staff members had emphasized the requirements to those entities which had received external allocations, and City staff members were aware of the requirements for internal projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson expressed his opinion the City would not want to return any funds if at all possible and emphasized the need to remain cognizant of the timeline and to continue to monitor the projects. If it appeared a project would not meet the requirements within the designated timeline, the funds would need to be reconsidered for a project that would meet the requirements and timeline.

Councilman McGull suggested scheduling another meeting for June.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked if any of the projects still needed funding.

Mr. Holtmann responded the last item for discussion was the allocation of the remaining \$1,439,692 in ARPA funds. He noted an additional \$6 million was needed for the Old City Hall project, and that was funded by allocating about \$4.5 million in carryover funds, and there was about \$1 million in contingency in the bond funds. Mr. Holtmann explained the recommendation for the Committee to consider was to allocate \$534,190 to the Historic City Hall project.

Mr. Holtmann noted there was also about a \$3 million shortfall in funding needed to finish the Cooper/Killian project to the point that all of the work could be completed, including the parking lots. He noted there was a small amount of carryover allocated to that project, and the recommendation for the Committee to consider was to allocate the remaining \$905,502 in ARPA funding to the Cooper/Killian project.

Mr. Holtmann asked for the Committee's thoughts on the proposed allocations and the possibility of taking a recommendation to City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if both projects were already in a position to meet the obligation requirements.

Mr. Holtmann responded the first part of the Cooper project was close to being in place, and the ballpark portion was scheduled for the latter part of the summer. He asked Mr. Park to confirm. Mr. Park responded the consultant contract for Olsson was being processed for the second phase of the project, and it was anticipated that bids for those projects would be opened in August of 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked for thoughts from Committee members. Councilwoman Hardinger responded the proposed allocations made sense. She then asked about a final deadline for other entities to notify the City if they were unable to meet the timeline requirements. Mr. Holtmann responded they had begun coordinating with FORVIS regarding communication with the external partners about the timeline. He explained they would be working with each external partner to verify their plans were materializing so any funds that needed to be re-allocated could go before City Council in a timely manner.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked about the best time to have the next quarterly update. Mr. Holtmann suggested meeting again in three months. He noted they should have updated information on the internal and external projects, such as CPO and the library project, at that time.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson agreed meeting in June would be appropriate. He expressed his opinion it was good news that the vast majority of the projects had already met the obligations even though there were still a few in negotiations.

Councilwoman Hardinger asked about the barriers CPO was facing in finding an appropriate property. Mr. Holtmann responded he was not fully aware of the situation but noted they had indicated in a recent e-mail they had tried to acquire two pieces of property, but they were purchased by other parties before CPO could get them under contract. He noted they were working to find an adequate site. Collin Quigley, Deputy City Manager, agreed with Mr. Holtmann's status report and noted they would be having regular meetings regarding the projects and would provide information to the Committee if an entity were not able to complete a project within the required timeline.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson suggested checking to see if the Housing Study providers had submitted an invoice. Mr. Holtmann responded there would be an invoice if the project had been completed and noted it must not have been entered into the accounting records.

Ms. Vernon noted CPO had identified a building which was supposed to go on the market in March. Mayor Pro Simpson responded that was a very important project and reiterated the need to be mindful of the timeline.

Councilman McGull noted he received calls regarding the traffic congestion in the Killian/Cooper area and asked if infrastructure considerations were included in the identified projects. Mr. Park responded on the initial phase, in addition to planning specifically for the turf fields and the related improvements, Parks also went through a master planning process with the consultant for the whole of Cooper Park and all of the complexes along Pythian. In that exercise, they developed a master plan which addressed additional off-street parking, so those areas have been identified. However, the off-street parking elements had not been incorporated into the planned drawings because of the amount budgeted for the projects. At the very least, they have determined how they could address some of the parking issues. Mr. Park added they were working carefully in house when scheduling larger tournaments so they were not compounding the situation by adding two large events over the course of a weekend. Councilman McGull suggested a shuttle to address parking issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Simpson asked if there were other thoughts on the recommendations, noting they would meet again to track the projects.

Councilwoman Carroll moved to approve the staff recommendation to utilize the remaining ARPA funding by allocating \$534,190 to the Historic City Hall project and \$905,502 to the Cooper/Killian project. Councilwoman Hardinger seconded the motion, and it was approved by

the following vote: Ayes: Carroll, Hardinger, McGull, and Simpson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

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

There being no further business to come before the City Council ARPA Review Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:13 p.m.

Prepared by Julie Greer