

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

June 21, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Stewart, Trisciani, E. Sapienza, Cavanaugh, Heath

Messrs.: A. Thomas, L. LaFreniere

1. Quarterly Expenditure Summary for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) submitted by Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development Director.
(Note: For informational purposes only; no action is required.)

Chairman Stewart stated I just want to thank the department for putting together this summary. I think it is great to see how this money is being deployed all across the city and for all of the great purposes. Thank you for sharing that.

2. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$30,676 for CIP 412822 Project Safe Neighborhood.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

3. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$300,000 for CIP 412922 Manchester Gunshot Recognition Technology.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to approve.*

4. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$177,481.64 for CIP 712621 Mill Girl Stairs.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to approve.*

5. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$286,207 for CIP 210623 Public Health Preparedness.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked could Anna come up please and shed some light on this.

Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, stated this is money that we get every single year and these are additional funds that the state is giving to us. Unfortunately, there is a fast track timeline. They want us to accept it tonight so we can start to use the dollars immediately. They are on a tighter timeline in the way they are initially processing these funds compared to what is normally done. We have been getting these dollars for many years now even before Covid.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

6. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$43,082.79 for CIP 211523 Oral Health Program.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

7. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$5,200,000 for CIP 710622 Airside Improvements.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

8. Petition to discontinue a portion of Second Street East Back.
(Note: Recommendation from the Department of Public Works attached.)

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to refer this to a road hearing to be held on Tuesday, July 19 at 6:00 p.m.*

9. Communication from the Fire Department requesting a project extension until 12/31/22 for CIP 411720 2018 Homeland Security Hazmat.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

10. Communication from Owen Friend-Gray, Highway Chief Engineer, to extend various CIP projects for Highway and Parks & Recreation.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

11. Request from the Highway Chief Engineer to change the administering department for CIP 712522 ARPA-Clean Water State Revolving Fund Projects from EPD to Highway.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

12. Communication from Janet Horvath, Recreation & Enterprise Manager, requesting line item adjustments and a project extension until 6/30/2023 for CIP 510716 Recreation Out of School Program and CIP 310319 Summer Reading Program/Fun in the Sun.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to approve.*

- 13.** Communication from the Planning & Community Development Director, regarding a request from WayPoint to change their \$361,256 HOME loan, which they received for the 298 Hanover Street project, to a grant.
(Note: Staff recommendation is that it remain a loan.)

Alderman E. Sapienza asked is there anyone here to speak on that.

Chairman Stewart invited Leon LaFreniere and Todd Fleming to come up and shed some light on the issue.

Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development Director, asked do you have specific questions.

Alderman E. Sapienza replied not necessarily. You are requesting to change from loan to a grant and I wanted to know if you could shed some light on it.

Mr. LaFreniere stated I can't really shed light on the necessity for WayPoint's request but I can from the city's perspective. We have traditionally provided these funds in the form of loans and the RFP that was issued did talk about the provision for loans and grants. This was approved as a loan and the documentation that was provided to WayPoint indicated that it was a loan. WayPoint has indicated to us that they anticipated it to be a grant and are asking for the terms to be modified to a grant versus a loan. That would not be the way that these funds have traditionally been disbursed. We structured these as loans in the past in order to facilitate incentivizing projects and providing financing to effectively allow for projects to move forward that wouldn't otherwise move forward without that gap financing. We also structured the terms as loans in order to recapture those funds ultimately, even if it is at the end of the term, for the purpose of reallocation to other worthy projects. It is our recommendation as staff that these funds remain a loan as they were initially provided and in recognition of the fact that almost \$250,000 was provided to this project in the form of a grant in terms of the ESG-CD funding. Keeping it as a loan would also give us the opportunity in the future to reallocate those funds to other projects.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated it says on our agenda "Note: staff recommends that it remain a loan." Is that your recommendation?

Mr. LaFreniere answered yes.

Chairman Stewart stated just for the record, this was never represented by your office as anything other than a loan correct.

Mr. LaFreniere replied that is correct.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to receive and file.*

- 14.** Communication from the property owner of 555 Calef Road requesting subordination of a City lien in the amount of \$20,000.

Chairman Stewart stated you may have seen in your packet that both this item and the next item are similar requests and I wanted to note that this committee did ask staff

about a year ago to put together some guidelines so we could be fair and consistent with how we address these type of requests. Correct me if I am wrong, Leon, but both this item and the next item do adhere to the guidelines correct? I just wanted to make that clear if that is the case.

Mr. LaFreniere answered yes.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked unlike the others that we did not approve.

Chairman Stewart replied right that did not adhere to the guidelines.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked and these do.

Chairman Stewart responded yes.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

- 15.** Communication from the property owner of 251-261 W. Hancock Street requesting subordination of a City lien in the amount of \$60,060.

***Alderman Trisciani** moved to approve. **Alderman E. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman Heath asked since both of these adhere to the guidelines that were set on that basis we are making the decision to approve.

Chairman Stewart answered correct and it is worth noting too that in both cases, and again correct me if I am wrong, but the city retains its second position on the loan.

Chairman Stewart called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Harmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee