

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION, 6:00 PM
Work Session ~ City Council and the Budget Committee
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue
Plan Act of 2021

Mayor Burge opened the work session at 6:01pm.

Present: Mayor Scott Burge; Council President Megan Greisen; Councilor Josh Poling; Councilor Pete McHugh; Councilor Tyler Miller; Budget Committee members: Teresa Keller, Ty Bailey, Sandie Wiggs, Michelle Brown, Annette Pixley; Legal Counsel Peter Watts; Legal Counsel Ashley Driscoll; Assist to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus; City Planner Laurie Oliver Joseph; City Recorder Susan Reeves; and Public Works Director Dave Sukau.

Remote: Councilor Brandon Lesowske; Interim Police Chief Shaun Davis; Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman; Chris Carey with Columbia County Emergency Management; Kim Holmes; Anna Del Savio with the South County Spotlight; an unknown caller (citizen) (joined at 6:25pm) Sarah Waud-Elrod (joined at 6:30pm); Dan McCoy (joined at 6:44pm); and Lisa Hoffman (joined at 6:50pm).

Excused: Councilor Joel Haugen

Assistant to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus went over the staff report. In May of 2021, the Department of the Treasury announced the availability of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (also referred to as the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds or SLFRF), established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Act identified \$350 billion in funding for state, local territorial and tribal governments for COVID emergency response. Scappoose will receive \$1,679,132.67. The funds will be received in two tranches, the first of which was received in August 2021 and the second will be received later in 2022. At the conclusion of the September 20, 2021 City Council meeting, Council requested that the full Budget Committee be involved in the decision-making process of how these funds should be appropriated.

ARPA GUIDELINES:

The following list provides an overview of the Eligible Funding Categories identified¹ in the Act:

- A. Responding to the Public Health Emergency** – To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- B. Premium Pay** – To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;

C. Revenue Shortfall Replacement – For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and

D. Infrastructure – To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

For guidelines and eligible uses of these funds, please refer to the guideline documents included in the Exhibits and provided by the US Department of Treasury.

ARPA FUNDS BREAKDOWN:

On September 20, 2021, City Council appropriated a portion of the funds to three separate projects, as shown below in the table.

Project	Organization	ARPA Category	2021 Tranche	2022 Tranche
Small Business Resource Center	<i>Columbia Economic Team (CET)</i>	(A) Responding to the Public Health Emergency	\$ 25,000.00	-
Ambulance Purchase	<i>Scappoose Rural Fire District (SRFD)</i>	(A) Responding to the Public Health Emergency	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Water Meter Replacement	<i>City of Scappoose</i>	(D) Infrastructure	\$ 170,433.70	\$ 579,566.30
Funds Allocated to Date:			\$ 975,000.00	

Funds Remaining for Appropriation: \$ 704,132.67

Assistant to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus talked about the information from Councilor Haugen regarding Senator Wyden's office calling him before Christmas. He explained he listened to a webinar this afternoon from ICMA and it looks like they are expecting the Department of Treasury to come out with a final rule sometime in the next week or two as well as some updates to the guidance that they have posted for everyone.

Budget Committee Member Annette Pixley asked, based on the potential of having some new guidance, do we hold off on making any firm decisions or recommendations?

Assistant to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus replied since this is a work session no decisions have to be made; it is just that we want to get this on Council's docket to start discussions. He explained he and City Manager Rains expected at least a few meetings where we would address this topic. He explained there is time to appropriate the funds and expend them. He stated there is no absolute rush to get these funds out the door.

Assistant to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus went over the requests.

REQUESTS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR ARPA FUNDS:

Below is a full list of requests and considerations received to date:

- 1. Aftercare / Childcare – Requested by Council.**

Legal Counsel Peter Watts gave an update on aftercare/childcare programs. He explained in most places the school district puts on the aftercare program and they use aids at the school generally; educational assistants that work for the school district or they contract through a third-party vendor, such as Campfire. He explained the way Campfire contracts are set up is to contract through a school district, not through a city. He explained what they learned was probably the most efficient thing would be to use district employees because they've already gone through the criminal background check that will be necessary in order to do this type of program. He explained the consultant he has been in contact with can continue with putting a program in place if that's something the City Council wants. He stated parallel to that process what he would recommend is that Council authorizes staff, if this is something of interest, to have conversations with the School District in order to see if maybe this is something they would host because it would make it significantly easier for the City if they agreed to host versus coming up with a responsible party here in the City in order to meet that. He explained the other things that the consultant he spoke with felt would be really helpful is to get an idea of the number of children that would want to be a part of this program, in addition to the hours of operation.

Council President Greisen explained she is all in favor of continuing a more straightforward conversation with the School Board as a whole. She highly suggests that there is a work session with the School Board, Director of Finance and Operations Mitch Neilson and Superintendent Tim Porter. She explained they do have funds as well and asked what are they using the funds on? She thinks there needs to be a public setting meeting with them.

Budget Committee Ty Bailey stated he agrees with Council President Greisen. He is concerned with hiring a consultant if the School District is not interested in this.

Councilor McHugh stated he is really glad we are having this conversation.

Councilor Miller stated just a couple of thoughts, for him personally, he wouldn't be for giving the School District any of our funds until we know exactly what they have received, in terms of relief funds too and how those have been spent. He feels that needs to come first before we decide on any of these other asks. He explained his request would be to have a meeting with the School District and gather as much information we can from that and then from there we decide how to proceed.

Council President Greisen stated her hope is if there's public awareness of these conversations there is a little more pressure put on the people at the School District who are making these

decisions. She agrees with Councilor Miller regarding finding out what direction we are going before hiring a consultant.

Councilor Poling agrees with Council President Greisen and Councilor Miller.

Councilor McHugh suggests the City check with the School District to see where they are with this.

Council President Greisen stated if there is not a willingness from the School District, she is happy to join whomever to get on the School Board agenda.

2. Pickleball Court Construction – Recommended by Scappoose Parks and Recreation Committee (SPRC). See **Exhibit D** for SPRC recommendation, and **Exhibit E** for City Attorney's feedback. If Council decides not to fund this item via ARPA, it could be included in the City's FY 22-23 budget.

3. Chapman Landing Improvements – Recommended by SPRC. See **Exhibit D** for SPRC recommendation, and **Exhibit E** for City Attorney's feedback. If Council decides not to fund this item via ARPA, this item could be included in the City's FY 22-23 budget.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts explained people think of these funds being pretty wide open and they're not. He explained the infrastructure that was envisioned with these funds were really water, sewer and broadband and it is all set up for that. He explained there is a little flexibility in tourism but if you look at that guidance, it's repairs to parks and facilities that have happened because of added use from COVID. He explained the tourism one is limited as well; it is really because certain segments of the tourism industry took up to a 32% decrease in revenue and with that, we are supposed to look at other industries that have been affected too. He stated there is not really a clean way for active outdoor recreation unless we can make findings that that's going to result in overnight stays.

Council President Greisen talked about the topic of broadband and providing hot spots around the City.

Assistant to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus explained he does recall seeing an email regarding someone at the County who is researching broadband access. He would have to look into that.

Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman explained Columbia County did reach out to us about nine months ago and talked to us about the study they were doing on broadband through the County. He explained we offered to give them information that we collected at the Annual Town Meeting virtually last fall, and he has never heard back.

Councilor Miller explained he had a conversation with Commissioner Garrett about a month and a half ago and they do have a designated group of people at the County level that are

looking into broadband County wide, and if he remembers correctly, Commissioner McGruder is leading that committee. He stated on that topic, it seems like it would make a lot more sense for us to do something partnership-wise if that ends up making sense. He stated it seems like the effect of us partnering for a broader Wi-Fi area would make a lot more sense and have a lot more far reaching impact. He thinks it would make sense for us to reach out to the County.

Budget Committee Ty Bailey explained we have dark fiber all over this town.

Mayor Burge stated shouldn't our contact at CenturyLink be able to give us that information?

Legal Counsel Peter Watts stated the standard that we have to reach is 100 mbps, or if that's not possible, it needs to be built so that we can achieve that standard of 100 mbps. He stated again, guidance is pretty prescriptive as far as what we have to do.

Assistant to Public Works Director Huell Whitehaus explained in terms of next steps he and Assistant to City Manager Isaac Butman will get back in touch with Columbia County and see where they are at with the broadband. He explained it sounds like there may be some changes with the broadband rule, and he will bring back the information he receives.

Mayor Burge stated his thought when it comes to the pickle ball courts is he likes the suggestion that we put it in the budget for next fiscal year. He explained as far as the Chapman Landing improvements, it doesn't sound like we're able to do stuff like that, specifically.

Legal Counsel Peter Watts replied again, some of this stuff just comes with a lot higher legal risk.

Council President Greisen stated she thinks it would be great to have some sort of work session with some Parks and Rec representatives, if not the whole group, just to give Council an update on their vision.

Mayor Burge would also like to know what damage has been done at the parks and to do the upgrades to the parks that are needed. He stated the reality is that with parks we should be encouraging people to be outside, active and healthy.

Councilor Poling asked, in regard to broadband, is there a way we can look up what we currently have?

Mayor Burge explained the other items will be discussed at the next work session.

4. Lapel style microphones for school classrooms

5. Updated security cameras in all district schools – Scappoose School District shared this project idea. Total need: **\$150,000.**

6. **Replace and add radios at all district buildings** – Scappoose School District shared this project idea. Total need: **\$35,000**.

7. **Frontage improvements for proposed affordable housing development** – Requested by Columbia County Habitat for Humanity. Total need: **\$282,035**. See Exhibits F through G.

8. **Premium pay for patrol officers & command staff of Police Department** – Requested by City staff. Consider adding premium pay to wages for Police.

9. **Installation of microphone array in Council Chambers** – City staff explored high-sensitivity microphone options that would work with Council Chambers' current configuration. Total need: **\$6,500 to \$7,500**.


10. **Community event support**

Mayor Burge thanked the Budget Committee Members for attending and their input.

Mayor Burge adjourned the work session at 6:56pm.


Mayor Scott Burge

Attest:


City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC