



MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, October 15, 2021 @ 3:15 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member, Adam Hussain, Vice Chair
Council Member Peter Spadafore, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Eric Brewer, Internal Auditor
Joe McClure, LPD
Jake Brower, Budget Director
Amber Paxton, Neighborhood Engagement
Barb Kimmel, EDP

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 1, 2021 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time; no public present.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Domestic Violence Services (DVS) Capital Area Response Effort (CARE) Programs Grant

Mr. McClure outlined that the grant is a Federal grant through MDHHS for \$164,897 with no match from the City. The CARE unit will receive the funds and provide empathetic listening to victims, assess victim risk of further injury, provide education and planning, and help arrange for safe shelter. Mr. McClure concluded by noting this will provide for three (3) contract employees, and their training, travel and supplies. Council Member Wood asked if they would be full time or part time, and was informed they are full time in addition to having 30 volunteers.

Mr. Smiertka stated to the Committee this item would need five (5) votes' items along with the grant from OHSP.

The Committee discussed what requires five (5) votes compared to six (6), discussed removing the portion of the resolution that speaks to authorizing administration appropriate and including only a case by case basis. Mr. Smiertka noted to the Committee that if the grants are already listed in the approved budget, they can use the funds without the statement of administration authorization in the resolution because the adopted budget accounted for receipt of those funds.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. McClure if this grant and amount was included in the current budget, and Mr. McClure confirmed it was not. Council Member Wood then noted it would now require six (6) votes. And she asked that Council Staff confirm with the Administration when a grant is referred if the funds are in the budget.

The Committee concurred to amend the resolution to include:

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Administration is authorized to create appropriate accounts and to make the necessary operating transfer for the expenditure and control of the balance of the funds."

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE DVS CARE PROGRAMS GRANT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Grant

Mr. McClure stated this was a \$12,809 with a 20% City match which totals \$2,562. The purpose is to present high visibility traffic enforcement program, and reduce fatalities and suspected injuries by educating and enforcing.

Council Member Wood asked if these funds could be used for motorcycles, and Mr. McClure stated it is specific to bicyclist and pedestrians.

Council Member Spadafore asked how much extra enforcement this would be able to provide and Mr. McClure noted it would cover 182 hours of overtime.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE OHSP BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY GRANT.

Mr. McClure confirmed that that is grant amount was not included in the FY2021/2022 budget.

Council Member Spadafore amended the resolution to include:

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Administration is authorized to create appropriate accounts and to make the necessary operating transfer for the expenditure and control of the balance of the funds."

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Brewer if he had any concerns, and Mr. Brewer noted the State requires an audit and that it what he reviewed and had no issues.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) of \$49,924,664 for Public Health, Economic Impacts and Governments Services due to COVID-19
Mr. Brower noted this was signed into law on March 11, 2021 and part of that law was for funds established in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery appropriating \$49,924,664 to Lansing. The first disbursement was done August 5, 2021 in the amount of \$24,962,232. The remaining balance of will be received in the next fiscal year. The first amount was used to make whole the City due to COVID public health emergency. The four (4) uses were:

- To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative Economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and Nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; and
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health Emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the State, territory, or Tribal government that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to Eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work; and
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of Such State, territory, or Tribal government due to the COVID-19 public health Emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the State, Territory, or Tribal government prior to the emergency; and
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

In addition there was an interim rule of guidance on what expenditures can be used for these dollars. This grant will accept the funds, then authorize the use of the first disbursement and authorize the administration take the amounts budgeted and apply to the grant.

Council Member Wood asked if there was an update on the question from the last meeting on when employees who were eligible would get paid. Mr. Brower confirmed a conversation he had with Ingham County, and there is a line in this resolution that prior to expenditure of other funds, the administration can determine if other uses eligible based on US Treasury can be disbursed. Since the City appropriated the funds they have set them aside and Council will see in the next year budget process final decisions on premium pay.

Council Member Spadafore voiced a concern with accepting funds without a solid plan on where they will go or what Treasury will determine. Mr. Brower explained they have authorized the expenditure by adopting the FY22 budget for the first amount of \$24,962,232. This resolution will not authorize the spending of the second amount; that will be done with the FY2023 budget. Mr. Brower also noted that he will be having discussion with the City Treasurer on what income taxes are expected at and how the FY2021 will end. From that point they will have a basis on estimating out what overall impact will be over multiple years in operating and deficit.

Council Member Wood then asked Mr. ~~Brewer~~ Brower who authorized the survey that went out to the public asking for input on where these funds should go. Mr. Brower confirmed the Mayor issued a survey related to ARPA funds, but he was not able to find any connection from the City with the Community Foundation survey.

Council Member Wood requested that the Administration work on a baseline for what the funds can be used for before they start communicating with the public. Mr. Brower offered to provide links to resources from the US Treasury, and a FAQ sheet as well. The Committee asked that the information also be provided on the City website.

Ms. Hagen noted the resolution did not have the correct amount since the overall amount of \$49,924,664 was split in two payments 50/50. The resolution was amended to reflect \$24,962,332 in the first WHEREAS, the NOW, THEREFORE paragraph and the first BE IT FURTHER.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE GRANT FOR ARPA FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,924,664 FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DUE TO COVID-19 A FIRST AMOUNT OF \$24,962,332. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grand Acceptance; Cities of Financial Empowerment fund (CFE Fund) planning grant for Local Consumer Protection Initiative

Ms. Paxton explained this is a planning grant, part of a cohort to develop strategic plans for local protection initiatives. The end goal would be to handle consumer protection, and an advisory board will be created so they could use the funds towards consulting.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE GRANT FOR CFE FUND PLANNING GRANT FOR LOCAL CONSUMER PROTECTION INITIATIVE.

Council Member Wood asked how this would work with the State's Consumers protection and where would the City get the authority to prosecute to hold someone accountable if they determined there was fraud. Ms. Paxton noted that any State law would preclude the City and they are looking at guidance for where there are gaps that could be filled. Council Member Wood asked if it has already been utilized, and was told by Ms. Paxton they have not accepted or signed a MOU. There are four (4) other cities that received this as well, that being Dallas, Texas; Montgomery, Alabama; Jackson, Tennessee and Washtenaw County in Michigan.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA) Neighborhood Stabilization Program Income Grant

Ms. Kimmel informed the Committee that they initially were part of the consortium with MSHDA for NSP funding but now they want to re-grant into the City. It is \$250,000 with no required match, but approximately \$60,000 in match anticipated in CDBG emergency repairs and Lead Safe Lansing funds. MSHDA would like these funds to provide exterior improvements to eight (8) homes in Churchill Downs. They will work with Capital Area Housing Partnership and the City will be the fiduciary.

Council Member Wood asked if she was aware of the history of flooding in the Churchill Downs where drains were installed and some homes have had basement flooding. Ms. Kimmel was not aware of the history of flooding, pointing out the MSHDA funds would be used for exterior work not interior work on past flooding, but she could look at CDBG funds. Council Member Wood asked that they speak to those home owners chosen to see if they have experienced flooding and if so where and what was impacted. Council Member Spadafore asked if they utilize CDBG funds also does that expand the amount of funds per home, and Ms. Kimmel confirmed. Council Member Spadafore then asked about the impact on their mortgage, noted if there is no mortgage there is a lien placed on and MSHDA has a five year continued for it to be forgiven. The CDBG is 10 years and the Lead Safe Lansing is 3 years forgiveness. Council Member Hussain asked who the contractors will be, and Ms. Kimmel stated the contract will be with the owner and the contractor, and they can choose their own contractor. The City will use the lowest bid, so if the homeowner wants a higher bid contractor they will have to pay the difference. Ms. Kimmel added she will be at the next Churchill Downs neighborhood meeting with Capital Area Housing.

Mr. Brewer had not comments on this grant.

MOTION BY COUNCL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MSHDA NEIGHBORHOOD STABLIZATION PROGRAM INCOME GRANT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

The Committee concurred to schedule the remaining Committee meetings to 3:30 p.m.

Council Member Spadafore asked for Mr. Brower to email the ARPA FAQ sheet to the Council offices.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved as amended by the Committee on November 5, 2021