

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on
Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 pursuant to notice duly given.**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Alderperson John Reed.

2. Roll Call: Roger Reed, Kim Bronikowski, Al Schreiber, Dean Reed, Jean Feldt, and John Reed
Excused: Mayor Heier
Also present: Fire Chief Josh Bostedt, Building Inspector Joe Last, Parks & Recreation Director John Bostedt, Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Superintendent of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth, Administrator Brittney Bickel and as recording secretary, and other interested parties.

3. ARPA Funds
J. Reed started off by stating that he read the packet, and feels it is clear the money can be used for utilities, lost revenue, premiums paid to essential workers that can also be backdated, and business and household internet.

Wusterbarth mentioned that he will be meeting with S&P Global for the ratings meeting and Jeff Belongia for potential bonding for the Utility. One of the things they are going to bring up is the low General Fund. It would be beneficial if we could get some of the ARPA money into that fund to ensure we get a better rating and can bond. The utility could use all of the ARPA money for WWTP and water main upgrades. Wusterbarth asked Jeff Belongia how much the utility company could borrow in 2022 without having to increase rates more than a Simple Rate Increase (3%). Wusterbarth asks that the departments ask themselves what do we really need and what is necessary, and what can we get by with for the next 5-10 years.

J. Reed stated that the money cannot be used to put in a “rainy day fund”. Bickel confirmed. According to the Baker Tilly webinar on ARPA funds, you look at the city as a whole, not individual areas or departments, and calculate an overall revenue loss based on previous years revenues and the growth rate.

Wusterbarth reminded everyone that we do not need to be in a hurry to figure this out and spend this money. Bickel stated that it applies to costs incurred until December 31st, 2024, and must be expended by December 31st, 2026. J. Reed asked if we need to document the expenses before December 31st, 2024 in order for them to be expended. Bickel said she would check into that. Wusterbarth stated this would not be a problem. We aren’t going to have a problem spending the money.

John Bostedt mentioned his department could use it towards lost revenue at the Holtwood Campground, City Park Campground, Harbor Launches, Harbor seasonals and transients, Park pavilion rentals, and the pool, potentially. Bickel added that when calculating Revenue Loss, we are required to look at the city as a whole and not individual areas. The calculation also requires us to exclude some parts of revenue such as utility. Which she will look at more to get the

details. If we are able to obtain the money via the Revenue Loss Calculation, the limitations and guidelines on how we are able to spend that money drastically loosens. If we get it by submitting a specific request for a single item, the restrictions are a lot more strict.

Josh Bostedt stated that per Senator Baldwin's representative in a phone conversation with Lt. VandeVoort, this money can be used for anything besides basically a personal vehicle. If an Ambulance is acquired, you can justify it because of COVID there was an increase in the Ambulance call volume, mileage, and wear-and-tear.

Feldt brought up in regards to the radio tower that Chief Bostedt was looking into, we could prove that it is a matter of public safety. An emergency staff needs to feel confident that their contact equipment is reliable.

J. Reed brought up that in the ARPA packet it mentions that the Police Department can use the money for equipment and technology to control and prevent gun violence to protect the officers.

Mike Rehberg mentioned that the Police Department has only one ballistic shield that was bought for use by a private citizen. It required to stay at the station, if we have a critic incident, someone has to go get it. They cost around \$2,000 each. Chief Rehberg would like to purchase 1 for each of the 6 squad cars and 1 to be kept at the school in the research officer's office.

Schreiber believes our first step would be to do the Lost Revenue Calculation to get money into the General Fund to use for COVID related expense reimbursements and go from there.

J. Reed stated that the safety of any municipality is by far its number one concern. Safety of its employees and citizens. Any safety equipment we used for COVID can be reimbursed with the ARPA funds.

Josh Bostedt mentioned that the Fire Department has a different COVID Grant that they received last year that covered a lot of his safety cost reimbursements.

D. Reed asked if the ARPA funds could be used to pay back the monies that the Campground owes to the city's General Fund. Wusterbarth thinks that because it is a separate entity from the city, that probably isn't a possibility.

Bronikowski asks how we get this money to us. If we file for the Revenue Loss are we still able to submit for the ballistic shields. Bickel explained that the Revenue Loss calculation will just show us what our max amount we can get for Revenue Loss. It doesn't mean we have to claim all of it. If we have other specific items that we want to submit, we can use all, some, or none of that Revenue Loss amount that was calculated. The Revenue Loss money we get still must be accounted for and documented appropriately, but it is a for sure way to claim that money.

J. Last says the Building Department doesn't need any of this money and probably doesn't have any qualifying costs.

4. **Motion by D. Reed, second by Bronikowski to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.**
Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

6 ayes M/C

Respectfully Submitted,
Brittney M. Bickel
City Administrator