



## Manager's Report September 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

### Downtown Mural

On Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> CharlotteRising hosted a ribbon cutting to commemorate the completion of the mural at 114 E Lovett. This community mural brightened up a section of downtown where there had previously been a blank wall. Kudos to local artist, Doodle Art by Michelle JL.

### Credit Card Fees

Council has asked the City to review the credit card processing fees being charged by the vendor who processes those payments. Below is a table outlining the current processing fees:

Amount Paid	Processing Fee	Percent
\$0.00 to \$49.99	\$2.50 flat rate	
\$50.00 to \$99.99	\$4.00 flat rate	8-4%
\$100.00 to \$199.99	\$5.50 flat rate	5.5-2.75%
\$200.00 to \$299.99	\$8.25 flat rate	4.125-2.75%
\$300.00 to \$399.99	\$11.00 flat rate	3.67-2.75%
\$400.00 to \$499.99	\$13.75 flat rate	3.437-2.75%
\$500.00 to \$599.99	\$16.50 flat rate	3.3-2.75%
\$600.00 to \$699.99	\$19.25 flat rate	3.2-2.75%
\$700.00 to \$799.99	\$22.00 flat rate	3.143-2.75%
\$800.00 to \$899.99	\$24.75 flat rate	3.09-2.75%
\$900.00 to \$999.99	\$27.50 flat rate	3.06-2.75%
\$1000.00 and over	2.75% of order	
Electronic Check	\$2.50 per transaction	

In my experience, most credit card processing companies charge a minimum amount for any transaction so the initial flat fee is unsurprising. However, the flat rate methodology results in a sliding scale wherein a smaller transaction is paying a higher percent of their amount due as the processing fee than a larger transaction. Administration will review the rates with our current vendor, as well as solicit quotes from other vendors to determine if a cost-reduction is available.

### 220 W Shaw

The City is preparing bid notices that will go out on MITN, be posted it on the city's website, and an advertisement in the county journal. Bids will be due in mid-October at which point Council will be able to re-visit the sale of the vacant lot.

### **American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

The City has submitted the application materials for receipt of the American Rescue Plan Act funds for non-entitlement units. The final allocation will be based upon the number of non-entitlement communities in the state who accept the funds. These dollars were allocated to 1,724 Michigan cities, villages, and townships and are scheduled to be distributed on a per capita basis. To date, our application is still pending audit review. Treasury has engaged a third-party vendor to review and audit the applications prior to distribution. As of early September, the vendor had completed the initial review of about 1/3 of the applications. More information can be found on Treasury's Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund webpage here: [https://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751\\_2197-561856--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751_2197-561856--,00.html).

In addition to the direct funding dollars, the American Rescue Plan Act allocated \$350 billion in competitive grant funding for a wide variety of projects and initiatives. The City has submitted an application to partner with the National League of Cities for assistance in applying for those grants. This is a free program only available communities in Midwest states as part of a pilot program. We expect to hear whether we were selected for participation by November. More information on that program can be found here: <https://www.nlc.org/initiative/arpa-grant-navigation-program/>.

### **RAVE Alerts and Charlotte E-News**

Administration is preparing to launch two electronic communications tools. Residents, business owners, and other interested persons will soon be able to sign up for RAVE Alerts and Charlotte E-News. These are two systems the City will utilize to continue to expand communications outreach, increase awareness, and provide timely public safety alerts in emergencies. We anticipate we will go live by October.