



Memo

To: Honorable Mayor Armitage; City Council

From: City Manager LaPere, MPAP

Date: April 14, 2022

Re: Staff report on ARPA Public Input Plan

Background

In March, the City Council discussed various options for allocating the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act, that the city will be receiving. The Council concurred that they would like to solicit public feedback in the form of a survey and in-person meeting. The consensus at that time was to host a public hearing at the regular meeting of April 18th and solicit public feedback through survey. Unfortunately, due to various reasons the public survey and public hearing were not publicized. The City has until 2024 to allocate these funds and until 2026 to incur the expenses, so we have the time to solicit meaningful feedback from the public on how to invest these dollars.

The Council's desire is to obtain public feedback from a variety of methods, including a published survey in the County Journal, an online survey on the city's website, and in-person at an advertised public hearing. In discussion with a representative from the County Journal, we need to have materials submitted ~10 days prior to the Saturday publication. I would recommend we provide not more than 2-3 weeks for respondents to return the surveys. This means we need the survey and response dates determined approximately 6 weeks in advance.

Given the required lead time for publication, and in thinking about this topic more since the earlier discussion, I would recommend we schedule this public feedback and discussion as the topic for the June 9th Council workshop meeting. That will provide for ample public survey response, provide administration sufficient time to compile survey results for presentation to Council, and will provide the opportunity to dedicate an entire meeting to receiving public input and discussion on the findings. Finally, I would recommend we not allocate any other projects for funding until such time as we have received and discussed public feedback.

Attached is a copy of the survey that will be provided to the public as an insert in the County Journal to city residents in the April 30th edition with a requested return date of May 20th. The survey will also be available as a google survey online that will be advertised through the city's social media and website. We can advertise the survey in the May editions of City Beat and Charlotte Chronicles, and we will also publish a separate notice for the request for in-person public feedback on June 9th.

Recommendation

City Council moves forward with the public input plan as outlined.

Financial Impacts

Costs to publish notices and mail out surveys are expected to be less than \$2,000. Other resources will be staff time spent collecting and analyzing the data provided.

Suggested Motion

City Council approves public input plan as presented and schedules a public hearing on June 9, 2022.

In 2021 the City of Charlotte was informed that it would be awarded \$955,256.46 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. In October 2021, the City Council directed the City Manager to utilize not more than \$60,000 for a one-time payment to eligible workers under the Essential Worker Premium Pay provision. In November 2021, the city paid out \$57,283.13 to eligible essential workers who continued to serve the city during the height of the pandemic closures, including payments to employees in public works, police, and fire departments, including the volunteer firefighters. In April, 2022 the City Council allocated not more than \$21,000 to be utilized to purchase a LUCAS device which will assist the fire department by providing life-saving CPR support. This leaves approximately \$877,000 available for funding other projects.

City Council is seeking public input to prepare a plan for allocating the remaining funds. Any funding allocation must meet the rules set out by the US Treasury. Within those parameters, city administration has prepared some project ideas for feedback from the public to help City Council set funding priorities.

Please return the survey by Friday, May 20th to the City Clerk's Office, 111 E Lawrence Ave, or complete the survey online at www.charlottemi.org. A City Council workshop meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9th to receive comments in-person, review survey results, and engage in further discussion.

Question 1—What types of eligible project areas are you most interested in funding? Rank the following project categories in priority order, with 1 being the highest priority area.

- _____ Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- _____ Road Improvements
- _____ Parks and Recreation Improvements
- _____ Public Safety Equipment
- _____ City Hall Improvements

Question 2—Please check the specific projects you would like to see funded. You may select as many projects as you like. Please see reverse side for more information on the projects.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

- ☐ Lead Service Line Identification (\$632k)
- ☐ Replacement Lift Pump (\$50k)
- ☐ Lansing Road Watermain (\$2mill)
- ☐ Tertiary Filter Replacement (\$1.374mill)
- ☐ Wellhouse Roof Replacement (\$30k)

Road Improvements

- ☐ Island Highway (\$500k)
- ☐ W Shepherd (\$450k)
- ☐ Lincoln Street (\$700k)

Public Space Improvements

- ☐ Oak Park Renovations (\$130k)
- ☐ Replace City Hall Roof (\$130k)
- ☐ Replace City Hall Boilers (\$70k)
- ☐ City Hall Security Upgrades (\$100k)
- ☐ A/V Upgrade in Council Chambers (\$5k)

Public Safety Equipment

- ☐ Turnout Gear (\$30k)
- ☐ Extrication Tools (\$35k)
- ☐ Patrol Vehicle (\$50k)

Below are the project descriptions for the various projects put forth by Administration.

Public Safety Equipment

Turnout Gear (\$30k) - This project would fund five sets of turnout gear for the firefighters. This gear is required to be replaced on a regular schedule per national standards.

Extrication Tools (\$35k) - This project would fund the purchase of a second set of extrication tools for the fire department. The first set was funded with a grant.

Patrol Vehicle (\$50k) - This project would fund the purchase of a replacement patrol vehicle for the police department. Police vehicle replacement has been delayed for several years due to budget cuts.

Public Space Improvements

Oak Park Renovations (\$130k) - This project would fund renovations to Oak Park, including replacing pavilion, installing historical lighting, installing benches and fireplace, and improving the interior walkways.

Replace City Hall Roof (\$130k) - This project would fund the replacement of the roof at City Hall. The roof was last replaced in 1998 and is past its useful life. The roof has been repaired numerous times due to leaks. City Hall is home to police, fire, and administrative offices for the city and is a gathering place for meetings of city government and local community groups.

Replace City Hall Boilers (\$70k) - This project would fund the replacement of the boilers at City Hall. The boilers are over 20 years old and in need of replacement as they are past their useful life.

City Hall Security Upgrades (\$100k) - This project would fund upgrades to the security systems at City Hall. This would include installation of additional security cameras and new door-locking mechanisms to prevent unauthorized entry into secure areas.

A/V Upgrade in Council Chambers (\$5k) - This project would fund the purchase and installation of new audio-visual equipment in the City Hall Council Chambers to facilitate the broadcast of Council meetings to the public.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Lead Service Line Identification (\$632k) - This project would offset costs of required lead service line identification work that is required by the State. The City has to identify and, over time, replace any lead service lines in the community.

Replacement Lift Pump (\$50k) - This project would fund the replacement of the pump at the Lansing Lift station. This pump is a critical part of our sewer infrastructure to ensure sewer flows do not backup into the system.

Lansing Road Watermain (\$2mill) - This project would provide assistance in funding the relocation of the watermain which is currently under Lansing road. Watermain breaks result in disruption to traffic and the main was constructed in 1905. The City has also applied for a grant to help defray the costs of this project.

Tertiary Filter Replacement (\$1.374mill) - This project would provide assistance in funding the replacement of outdated equipment at the waste water treatment plant which assists in filtering and cleaning the wastewater.

Wellhouse Roof Replacement (\$30k) - This project would replace the roofs at two wellhouses which require frequent repairs due to age. The roofs are beyond their useful life.

Road Improvements

Island Highway (\$500k) - This project would fund a reconstruction of the roadway from the I-69 bridge to Lansing Road. This project is funded in partnership with the Eaton County Drain Commissioner's office project to replace drain infrastructure.

W Shepherd (\$450k) - This project would fund a milling and resurfacing of the roadway from Cochran to State.

Lincoln Street (\$700k) - This project would fund a reconstruction of the roadway from Shepherd to Seminary.