

**MINUTES
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2022**

Present: Majority Leader Gene Nocera; Pamela Steele; Rev. Robyn Anderson; Christina Heckart; Cynthia Clegg; Diana Doyle; Carl Erlacher; Kevin Elak; Joseph Fazzino; Brianna Skowera; Benjamin Florsheim; Brig Smith

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

The Mayor called for a moment of reflection for the life of Quentin "Q" Williams.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Brianna Skowera made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 regular meeting and Gene Nocera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Reallocation of Water and Sewer Funds

Brig Smith explained the back-story on how the resolution was pulled before the last Council meeting. Originally, the ARPA Task Force approved \$2.75 million for water and sewer basins 25, 26, and 27. The department started to use the funds and reported to the task force. Water and Sewer then put in additional ARPA applications for Red Road for almost \$750,000 and Bartholomew Road for another \$2.19 million. The task force then recommended against funding the Red Road and Bartholomew Road projects. Brig further explained that the Task Force looked at reconfiguring the \$2.75 million. Brianna Skowera raised the point at our last meeting that the Task Force already weighed in and the Council should consider the Task Force recommendations.

Joseph Fazzino explained that Water and Sewer were looking at ways that they could spend money and not require raising the water and sewer rates. He explained that the resolution was confusing and did not make sense to him and was pulled from the Council agenda. Joseph explained that the WPCA decided it was okay to move forward with the Red Road project using the non-referendum bond and that Water and Sewer is looking for other funding through the Department of Public Health. Briana Skowera stated her concerns with the process of governance and that the Task Force already made a recommendation that should be voted on by the Council. More discussion ensued.

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Gene Nocera made a MOTION to rescind the recommendations and close the Task Force's recommendation and Brianna Skowera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Working Group Recommendations for City Projects Allocations

Brig Smith introduced the Central Communications application. He explained that this is for a feasibility study for a new 911 center. The working group recommended to fully fund this project at \$50,000. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Cynthia Clegg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brig Smith introduced the Middletown Fire Department application. He explained that the department is seeking \$300,000 for facilities updates to the Middletown Fire Department headquarters. The working group recommended funding this project at \$180,000. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Kevin Elak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brig Smith introduced the Recreation and Community Services Department application. He explained that the department is seeking \$285,000 for facility and infrastructure support to the senior and recreation centers. The working group recommended funding this project at \$285,000. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Brianna Skowera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brig Smith introduced the Economic and Community Development Department application. He explained that the department is seeking \$75,000 for spring and summer concert series. The working group recommended funding this project at \$50,000. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Brianna Skowera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brig Smith introduced the Economic and Community Development Department application. He explained that the department is seeking \$272,000 for a rebranding campaign for Middletown. The working group recommended funding this project at \$180,000. Discussion ensued about the financial impact it will have on departments to change logos. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Brianna Skowera seconded the motion. The motion passed with Kevin Elak opposing.

Brig Smith introduced the Public Works Department application. He explained that the department is seeking \$1,000,000 for sidewalk repairs. The working group recommended funding this project at \$700,000. Discussion ensued as to if the department has confirmed if the working group's recommendation is enough to complete the project. Cynthia Clegg made a MOTION to table the Public Works Department applications and Gene Nocera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brig Smith introduced the Youth Services Bureau application. He explained that the department is seeking \$374,000 for the Middletown resilience project. The working group recommended funding this project at \$274,000. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Cynthia Clegg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brig Smith introduced the Technology Services and Economic and Community Development Department application. He explained that the departments are seeking \$149,715.24 for municipal network and security infrastructure integration at R.M. Keating Park. The working group recommended funding this project at \$149,715.24. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Cynthia Clegg seconded the motion. The motion passed with Brianna Skowera abstaining.

Brig Smith introduced the Technology Services and Emergency Management application. He explained that the departments are seeking \$39,799.34 for emergency power for the emergency operations center. The working group recommended funding this project at \$39,799.34. Pamela Steele made a MOTION to approve at the working group's recommendation and Kevin Elak seconded the motion. The motion passed with Brianna Skowera abstaining.

Brig Smith introduced the Middletown Police Pal and Cadet Program application. He explained that the department is seeking \$250,000 for the community services programming. The working group recommended funding this project at \$235,000. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve at the working group's recommendation and Pamela Steele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brig Smith introduced the Clerk of the Common Council application. He explained that the department is seeking \$9,940 for the upgrade of microphones in the Council Chambers. The working group did not recommend funding this project. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Cynthia Clegg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brig Smith introduced the Russell Library application. He explained that the department is seeking \$100,000 for catastrophic leak recovery. The working group recommended funding this project at \$100,000. Gene Nocera made a MOTION to approve the working group's recommendation and Brianna Skowera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

A. Report of Current Expenses and Balances

Brig updated the task force throughout the meeting.

B. Report from Water and Sewer

Joseph gave an update on Water and Sewer. He explained that the Saybrook Road project is tied with Public Works and has not been done yet. The Oak Ridge project is in design and has to go out to bid. Water and Sewer is looking to go out to bid with construction funding for basins 25 and 26. Basin 27 is 60% designed and once completed will go out to bid later this year.

6. Other

7. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn made by Gene Nocera and Rev. Cynthia Clegg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 12:12 p.m.