

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the State and Local Relief Funds Discussion Workshop of the Brainerd City Council was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President Bevans.

Upon roll call, the following members were noted present: Stunek, Johnson, Bieser, Stenglein, Erickson, O'Day, and Bevans. Mayor Badeaux was noted as present. City Administrator Bergman, Finance Director Hillman, City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn, Community Development Director Kramvik, BPU Finance Director Wicklund, HR Director Schubert, Fire Chief Holmes, and Police Chief Bestul were also noted as present.

Discussion of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)- Part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Finance Director Hillman gave a brief overview of the \$1,468,098 in funds that will be received from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and the eligible uses. Of the funds, \$80,000 has already been allocated to the DEED Mainstreet Revitalization Program. She asked that the Council report their suggested allocations for the SLFRF funds from their worksheet that had been sent to them to work on.

Member O'Day asked for clarification on "to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue" how does the City avoid indirectly using funds to offset the levy.

Finance Director Hillman stated that as long as the levy is not reduced from the previous year the City should be protected against the stipulation.

Council Discussion took place. All members had the chance to comment.

Member Bieser recommended that a portion of the funds could go toward a community partnership group to assist homeowners with code enforcement violation.

Member Johnson stated that the recommendations are good, however, he added some projects that may be good SLFRF as well. He suggested the historic water tower project, Highway 210 pedestrian crossing, Laurel Street connection, master plan for Trailside Park, city wide banners, helping with the implementation of new streetlights, holiday decorations, Gregory Park fountain, or exploring relocating the trailer park on James street as options in the other category. Beyond those suggestions, he suggests use of funds for the parks in all of the parks suggested by the parks aside from the Skate Park. He believes the Skate Park is a regional project that should be funded privately.

Chair Bevans stated that this exercise is a great first step in sorting through projects that are priorities. The projects that he chose to allocate funds to in the exercise are not easily funded elsewhere.

Mayor Badeaux stated that the Park Board did a phenomenal job on their proposal for use of funds.

Administrator Bergman stated that the Annex item was with the assumption that the City would not have a lease. She stated that the figures were derived from the 2018 facilities study building in inflation in order to make the repairs necessary to lease the Annex and generate some revenue.

City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn stated that there are a couple of homes that are in danger with the gully. The clean water grant has been submitted. The amount suggested for funding is the amount of the grant match. The Street and Parks facility is for internal repairs for outfitting for additional office space.

Finance Director BPU Wicklund stated that the River Crossing project has increased from the initial estimate. If the rate payers are responsible for the cost of the project, they will see an increase of \$10-\$12. The local contribution toward a project may come up in the future when seeking bonding for the projects. This is a core infrastructure project. BPU has not received funds for a project like this.

Member Johnson stated that the City has contributed funds to BPU.

Council suggested staff bring forth the parks and capital allocations forward at the first meeting in November for further discussion and approval. The Police Department HVAC project will also move forward due to the lead time needed for supplies for the system.

Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the workshop at 6:55 P.M.



Jennifer Bergman
City Administrator