

Special Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
July 27, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Cindy Bombard, Eric Clemons, Mickey Goldwasser, Glenn Heiser, Malcom Huckaby, David Maikowski, Thomas O'Brien, David Preleski, John Smith and Mayor Ellen Zoppo Sassu.

Members Absent: Orlando Calfe, Michael Dumas, Donna Osuch, Susan Sadecki and Howard Schmelder

Also present: Josh Medeiros, Aubrey Minkler, Nancy Levesque, Diane Waldron, Scott Smith, Roger Rousseau and Justin Malley

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ellen Zoppo Sassu called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from the June 24, 2021 Special Meeting and to take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Goldwasser made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith "To approve the minutes from June 24, 2021" Motion approved.

3. Approval of \$10,000 request for funding for Assistance to Households – Community Services Incidentals and to take any action as necessary.

Commissioner Goldwasser made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith "To approve the \$10,000 request for funding for Assistance to Households – Community Services Incidentals and refer to the Board of Finance and City Council for approval." Motion approved.

4. Discussion of RFP results and to take any action as necessary.

Roger Rousseau updated the Task Force on the status of the RFP, the City received six proposals from firms, and the subcommittee will be reviewing and scoring these proposals. The responses have a heavy focus on the financial aspect and less on the public outreach, but more information will be obtained through the interview process. The fee range is wide, with some unknown. The subcommittee will meet to select those for interviews.

5. Discussion of Treasury guidelines and to take any action as necessary.

Mayor Zoppo Sassu stated the finals guidelines were not issued on July 16. The question and answer period was April – July 2, and everyone is still waiting for final guidelines to be issues. The Mayor has been in touch with Congressman Larson's Office for any updates.

6. Discussion of next steps and sub-committee responsibilities and to take any action as necessary.

The Mayor has asked Scott Smith to make a presentation to the Task Force to keep them up to date on the broadband project.

The Mayor's Office continues to receive inquiries from businesses and non-profits, but will continue to improve on the marketing and communications through various channels.

A project request came in to the Mayor's Office from the Bristol Boys and Girls Club as they have purchased a house on Frances Street and will be demolishing it for outside recreational use and installing a playground which can also be shared with children within the shelter. The project happened after March 3 and will enhance neighborhood and social services.

Commissioner Bombard requested an updated list, as she is interested in looking at what the businesses are requesting. She will be going out into the community to speak with all Chamber businesses and can do outreach to them about these funds. She also does not want to see workforce fall through the cracks because no one has asked for it.

Commissioner Heiser requested the list be segregated into the subcommittees, so the members can see where the requests are coming in.

Commissioner Smith expressed his concerns as he doesn't want to lose sight as this is a potential opportunity for the City to do something, and this opportunity won't happen again, which doesn't have to cost a lot amount of money. The City can make a good amount of investment for the future. There has been discussion of parcel 4 across the street as a central gathering area for events and he would like to see the pieces come together for that.

Commissioner Heiser spoke regarding the Bristol Health Community Health Assessment which contains data on the population, he is going to obtain this information for the Task Force. The Mayor also stated in August the certified census data will also be available.

The Mayor stated some of the take aways from this meeting including the following:

- Thinking about the criteria
- Keeping discussion up in the community
- Marketing & Communication
- Gathering Data
- Monitoring of Department of Treasury guidelines
- Subcommittee working on the RFP

7. Discussion of future meeting dates and to take any action as necessary.

The Task Force agreed to meet again on Monday, August 2 at 4:00 pm.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Bombard made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith "to adjourn" at 4:41 pm
Motion approved.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary