

Special Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
June 24, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Cindy Bombard, Orlando Calfe, Eric Clemons (*arrived at 4:25 pm*), Michael Dumas, Mickey Goldwasser, Malcom Huckaby, David Maikowski, Thomas O'Brien, Donna Osuch, David Preleski, Susan Sadecki, Howard Schmelder, John Smith and Mayor Ellen Zoppo Sassu.

Also present: Josh Medeiros, Stephen Bynum, Aubrey Minkler, Nancy Levesque, Diane Waldron, Scott Smith, Roger Rousseau, Justin Malley, and Rob Longo.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of minutes from the June 9, 2021 Special Meeting and to take any action as necessary

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Bombard

“To approve the minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting and place on file” Motion approved.

Roger Rousseau, Purchasing Agent provided an update on the status of the RFP. The RFP will be on the City's website tomorrow, with legal ads in Tuesday's paper and responses are due back mid-July.

The Mayor distributed an updated spreadsheet of proposed projects submitted, anything not eligible has been removed. The City may be receiving state funding for Memorial Boulevard retaining wall so that has been removed. Firehouse generators and A/C's have been added back to this list because the Distressed Municipalities grant was not approved by the State.

Commissioner Goldwasser questioned if there was a plan to put it out to the community that these funding was available and to submit for funding. Mayor Zoppo Sassu stated there will be a plan with the communications and marketing piece.

3. Sub-committee discussions to focus on the priority areas and to take any action as necessary

The following subcommittee met with City Staff for discussion in their focus areas

Non-Profit

Donna Osuch, Eric Clemons, Malcon Huckaby, Susan Sadecki and Howard Schmelder

Staff: Josh Medeiros, Stephen Bynum and Aubrey Minkler

Business Recovery

Dave Preleski, Cindy Bombard, Orlando Calfe, Mickey Goldwasser and Glenn Heiser

Staff: Justin Malley

City Use

John Smith, Michael Dumas, Dave Maikowski, Tom O'Brien and Ellen Zoppo-Sassu

Staff: Diane Waldron, Nancy Levesque, Scott Smith and Rob Longo

4. Reconvene into full group session to give synopsis of sub-committee discussions and to take any action as necessary

Below is a summary of the sub-committee meetings:

Non-Profit

- Discussed the application process, would like to start with a letter of intent and would like to wait until there is more guidance

Business Recovery

- Discussed creating a mechanism of ideas, general to specific, buckets to help businesses, workforce development, physical expansion, programs that don't already exist within the City, and outreach through ECD when better guidance is received

City Use

- Reviewed 50% of the projects the City had listed, discussed if projects should be done that attract the public or ones the employees use

Mayor Zoppo Sassu stated on July 2 the interim guidance closes and on July 16 new guidelines should be issued.

5. Overview of Broadband initiative and the City's plans – Citywide IT Director Scott Smith

Scott Smith gave the Task Force an overview of the broadband initiative the City is studying to pursue. The proposal would build a network with dedicated bandwidth to each home with full speed. Scott reviewed the difference between symmetrical and asymmetrical networks. A symmetric network is needed due to distance learning and the increased need for Zoom, WebEx and Microsoft Teams. The City is not looking to be an Internet Service Provider (ISP), but build the pathway and infrastructure for the ISPs. There are three costs associated for subscribers which includes infrastructure, monthly maintenance and operations and ISP internet services. The ISP would pay to use the City's network and collect fees from the subscriber network. The infrastructure costs upfront to build is what the request to use the ARPA funds is for. Once it's built, equipment would be installed within the homeowner's house and then they could sign up by choosing their provider. The network also provides for private connections to connect to the City's private network.

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

The Task Force agreed to meet on Monday, July 19 at 4 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Sadecki made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith “to adjourn at 5:18 p.m.” Motion approved.

DRAFT