



AGENDA MEMO

Needs Legal Review: No
Council Meeting Date: March 16, 2022
Agenda Item: ARPA Funding Proposal
Presented By: Marla Keethler, Mayor and Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed by congress in March 2021 to provide \$1.9 trillion in emergency funding to state, local and tribal governments to help communities respond to and recover from the pandemic. City of White Salmon expects to receive approximately \$751,000 in ARPA funds and has received \$375,594.00 so far, with the remaining balance to be released in June 2022.

Per federal guidelines, ARPA monies must be used to fund Public Health, Negative Economic Impacts, Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities, Premium Pay, Infrastructure, Revenue Replacement and/or Administrative Expenses. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

The administration recommends that these one-time, limited funds go to projects that support the long-term resilience of our community in the aftermath of the pandemic. By making tangible improvements to the quality of life for residents in our community, we are staying true to our 2040 vision of realizing a White Salmon that “nurtures innovation and diversity, creating opportunities and partnerships that foster a prosperous community; and where quality of life is based on balanced and sustainable growth that contributes to the community’s authenticity and prosperity.”

Of the community identified priorities for realizing that vision, the ones below in bold are where the administration has identified some specific funding recommendations for ARPA dollars for consideration by City Council:

- Small streets and pedestrian paths
- **Right-sized infrastructure**
- Zoning amendments to manage growth
- **Affordable housing and long-term rentals**
- Small-scale, local businesses
- **Connected parks and trails**
- **Access to nature and recreation**

In addition, and in consultation with outreach conducted within our Native and Latino communities, some additional funding recommendations for council to consider are proposed to address shortfalls in access to services and critical information.

The Personnel and Finance Committee and the CityLAB Board met on Monday, March 14 to discuss the proposed ARPA allocations.

The following is a summary of the discussions and input provided by the two entities.

Personnel and Finance Committee

Overall, the committee was supportive of the different pockets identified for spending. However, there was some concern about not knowing the specifics for projects that would come out of each pocket. The committee wants the budget to keep the ARPA funding in a lump sum at this time and when staff is ready to make specific proposals to the city council for projects then the funding would be reallocated through a budget amendment.

The committee discussed funding for the pool including providing funding proportionally. A decision from Klickitat County regarding providing funding for the pool (or not providing funding for the pool) would have an impact on the funding is determined. Staff also provided information about the possibility of funding coming from the city's real estate excise tax funds if the pool was included in the city's capital improvement plan. There was a consensus of the committee, that even if the city determines a level of funding for the pool, the funding should not be provided to the district until their funding is secure.

CityLAB Board

Below are the comments from members of the CityLAB Board and staff's response.

- Multi-family housing vs. single-family dwellings
- Support for water infrastructure improvements particularly if it helps provide resiliency (not knowing specific projects – identified to support housing project and possibly the 14-inch main line replacement project)
- Include funding for climate action plan (Noted that this funding is already being included in the city's budget – not part of ARPA funding)
- Need to understand more about cluster mailboxes (Provided an overview of how the project has moved along and the plan as it stands today – Board is supportive)
- Provide routes to tribal sites (in lieu site in White Salmon and Underwood cut) instead of transit station (Recommended the city needs to work with partners including the county regarding transit – make recommendation to the county about these two sites. Believe there is a stop at the Park and Ride which is adjacent to the White Salmon in lieu site. Noted the transit system in Gorge is literally black and white compared to five years ago – education about what is available is ongoing).
- Consider hiring a public health advocate (Noted that the city should be working with its partners and as the county already has a health department they seem like the perfect fit for this type of assistance)
- More information on reader boards, like the bilingual aspect (provided information that we were considering two construction reader boards that could be moved in the events of emergency, construction ,etc. and that we are hoping to install a permanent reader board at city hall which capture many people coming in from the north).
- Nature connection – consider community garden site, public recycling site
- Consider make infrastructure green and addressing green stormwater In all developments
- Consider offering lessons in kayaking, windsurfing; providing a covered play structure
- Support emergency notification
- Prioritize climate, diversity and inclusions

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- Bus stops are needed addition, invest in Mt. Adams to bring it up to a district scale (see above information)
 - Digital reader boards oriented towards areas not in White Salmon (see above information – noted that funding must be spent within White Salmon and that the county and Bingen also have funds that can be used for a variety of purposes)
 - Support postal delivery – need to know more (see above information delivered)
 - Green stormwater options for construction along roadways can help reduce speed, should be used when building a transit shelter
 - Areas might be missing but cannot be covered with the \$750,000 funding available
 - Good priorities to start with
 - Even though 50% of funding is going towards housing seems to be right
 - Make sure green standards are incorporated into any housing project
 - Like the idea of digital reader boards
 - Support cluster mailboxes
 - Support transit stops but feel there does need to be more routes
 - Support anything for recreation
 - Most common repeated request to council is affordable housing, 10 units seems to be scratching the surface but at least is a start
 - Fan of the reader boards
 - Free mail delivery would be great
 - Outdoor recreation, playground equipment would be helpful

Staff noted that funding has to be spent within the city limits and available funding through ARPA is only \$751,188.

The board discussed the pool and the funding shortfall as it currently stands. They are supportive of funding the pool and there was a general consensus that \$24,000 might not be the appropriate level. Staff noted that there is a goal to install a splash pad in the park that would be free for use and could even provide “cooling” in a heatwave.