

City Commission Workshop

Focus on American Rescue Plan Funding - ARPF (\$13M)

Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

Public Participation: Suggestions from the public included:

- Apply to *deferred maintenance* of historic buildings, roads, landmarks, public facilities (e.g., Coronado Community Center)
- *Upgrade the entrance* to Canal Street Historic District.
- *Establish an Urban Forest Division* for protecting and expanding our tree canopy
- *Restore Turnbull Creek* for recreational use.
- *Implement Chapter 50:34* historic preservation property tax exemption & *50-42 Historic Preservation Grant Program*.
- *Increase staffing* level of first responders.
- *Enhance a legal defense* program to better respond to developers.
- *Enhance staff development and education* programs
- Build a *downtown parking garage* to service Canal St. businesses.
- Make *Improvements to NSB parks. Especially The Skate Park.*

ARPF expenditures must be earmarked by 2024 and all monies spent by 2026.

City Manager, Khalid Resheidat, opened the discussion with a list of current initiatives consideration.

- ✚ *Washington Streetscape Project and improvements*
- ✚ *Quay Assisi Barracuda Bridge Project*
- ✚ *5 th Street Bridge Project*
- ✚ *Barracuda Bridge project*
- ✚ *Hope Avenue City Stormwater Project*
- ✚ *North Atlantic Stormwater and UC Water Main Improvement Project*
- ✚ *Duss Street Streetscape*
- ✚ *Williamson Boulevard Alignment Project*
- ✚ *Joint Fleet Building Study*
- ✚ *Septic to Sewer Initiative*
- ✚ *Paving Contract – City to provide UCNSB Paving Services for emergent work roadway repairs*
- ✚ *Fire Hydrant Flow Testing – UCNSB manages contract, testing plan and maintenance program for the City*
- ✚ *Various Interagency Process Improvements*
- ✚ *Street Lighting Account Resolution – City and Venetian Bay HOA’s*
- ✚ *Fiber Optics Joint Project*
- ✚ *Need for additional ambulances*

Comments from the Commissioners to open discussion included:

- *don’t want to incur future expenses in using this one-time funding*
- *should take this opportunity to upgrade infrastructure (stormwater, streets, street signs)*
- *focus on projects that have already started but stalled due to lack of funding*
- *address city staffing needs, especially a grant writer to access state and federal funding*
- *don’t use monies for septic to sewer initiative, instead continue to maximize the city’s relationship with the Utilities Commission*

General Comments:

Commissioner Kolody called for changes to the PUD and MDR ordinances that more strictly require useable park land. This is especially critical for areas west of I95.

Commissioner Hartman wants to employ initiatives to prioritize annexation of property within the city's physical boundaries, particularly South Beach. There should be better public outreach addressing the benefits of annexation.

In a broader discussion of turnover, recruitment, and staffing, Hartman noted that the City Charter requires annual evaluations of 3 staff (City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney) who report directly to the Commission. He proposed a change to require a super-majority for removing senior staff instead of the currently required simple majority.

Commissioner McGuirk expressed concern that US1 CRA initiatives are hampered by 'crime incubators'. Mayor Owen suggested the potential for upgrading the many "classic" motels on US1, potentially leading to a 'boutique' destination.

Commissioner Sachs' concerns focused on local roads. He noted that efforts to lower speeds on one residential street tend to move traffic to neighboring streets.

Nest Step

The Mayor instructed the City Manager to provide full information on the status of on-going projects with a focus on any anticipated shortfalls in funding and including estimated dates for completion so the Commissioners can prioritize where the ARPF could be used to most benefit the citizens.