

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

8/24/2022 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. This meeting will also be conducted by audio and video conference without the requirement of a physically present quorum of the Rock Island City Council due to the disaster declaration issued by Governor Pritzker.

3. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked Deputy City Clerk Naomi Sanderson to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderpersons Moses Robinson, Randy Hurt, Judith Gilbert, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, and Bill Healy.

Absent: None.

City Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, City Attorney Dave Morrison, City Clerk and ARPA Program Manager Samantha Gange, Deputy Clerk Naomi Sanderson, and other City staff.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Moment of Silence

Mayor Thoms requested a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

6. Public Comment

Mayor Thoms asked if anyone in the public wished to speak.

Alderson Swanson said there was an erroneous article in the newspaper that stated public officials contacted business and property owners by phone, email, and certified mail and that the City sent out mailers regarding the proposed Special Services Area (SSA). She clarified that things were carried out by the Downtown Steering Committee and Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce and the City and members of Council were not involved.

Mike Baxter of Muscatine, Iowa approached the podium to address City Council. He said he works in the marine industry with towboats and barges and will keep Rock Island in mind as a potential Midwest port. He said his purpose for addressing Council was to prevent the Rock Island County Courthouse from being demolished. Mr. Baxter described his strategy for addressing the County Board, his request for an economic impact study, and the potential impacts on the City of Rock Island.

Alderson Gilbert asked if the City could get the County to clean up the weeds at the courthouse site.

#### 7. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Proposed Funding Recommendation Plan Presentation

City Clerk and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program Manager Samantha Gange greeted Council and deferred to City Manager Todd Thompson to provide an overview of the evening's agenda. Mr. Thompson gave an introduction and explained how the ARPA information would be presented. Ms. Gange began the presentation by reviewing the criteria of ARPA allowable expenses for public knowledge which includes public health funding, negative economic impacts, premium pay for essential workers, infrastructure including water, sewer, and broadband, and revenue replacement. She shared the results of the ARPA survey conducted from July 1, 2022 through July 25, 2022 from which 1,827 survey responses were received from stakeholders. Access to the survey was shared on the City's Facebook page and website. City staff also attended pop-up events to share information with constituents and over 16,000 postcards were sent via mail.

Ms. Gange provided an overview of the top five categories as prioritized by survey participants and said all data from the ARPA survey would be posted on the City website. She discussed the demographics of survey participants including their age group, gender, ethnic background, the ward they live in, and their relationship to the City. Ms. Gange said 952 comments were received and explained there was an overwhelming amount of comments regarding road repairs and the library.

Ms. Gange then discussed road projects as they were the most identified priority in the survey comments. She said \$334,000.00 was allocated for the Rock Island Parkway Project during the special meeting in June. An additional \$1 million dollars would be recommended for road projects. She shared information from the Public Works Director Mike Bartels which outlines the City's road repair inventory including projects paid for by grants and loans. Alderson Gilbert clarified for members of the public that the \$1 million dollars allocated for road repairs is classified as the City's lost revenue funds. Ms. Gange responded affirmatively. She said the inventory includes projects and funds that have been applied for and are waiting to hear back regarding awarded funds. Mr. Bartels said the projects noted in red are applications for funds that are currently being worked on. Ms. Gange pointed out the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant which could allocate \$37 million dollars for road projects in Rock Island.

Ms. Gange then discussed the funding recommendations for the ARPA plan being guided by the ARPA guiding principles. She described Council members involvement in scoring projects by utilizing a rubric to score projects proposals provided by City department directors. Other factors that were also considered included public input from the survey, City staff input, and other data including census information and local municipality data. She also pointed out the

rubric that was utilized to score projects.

Ms. Gange went on to explain revenue replacement which allows the City to utilize \$10 million dollars of ARPA funds as lost revenue. She said the current plan is to allocate those funds to public safety salaries. Alderperson Gilbert asked if the \$10 million dollars in lost revenue funds had to be justified to the federal government. Ms. Gange responded that by paying salaries with lost revenue funds, more funds are available in the General Fund which allows the City more flexibility. Mr. Thompson said it reduces the reporting and eliminates the requirement to utilize those funds within a time period. Alderperson Poulos clarified that funds are allocated to salaries and not retirement funds. Ms. Gange responded affirmatively.

She then presented the funding recommendations which were organized by quartile, and ranked by dollar amount and Council priority. Mr. Thompson said projects in the final quartile are in order by rank within each quartile. Ms. Gange briefly reviewed projects previously approved and noted the elimination of the water dome project due to the engineers recommending a different and much more costly approach. Mr. Bartels explained that the initial project was to replace the liner and an additional evaluation was conducted which identified concerns with the age of the tanks, below grade pumps in structure from 1996 that are no longer compliant. Public Works will be working with the EPA to address concerns and reconfiguring the water tank system. Alderperson Gilbert asked about the source of funding for this project. Mr. Bartels said likely a low interest loan.

Alderperson Gilbert inquired about the previously approved item for City software. Ms. Gange said \$1 million dollars of lost revenue would be reserved for items that may potentially cost more than the projected budget. Mr. Thompson said staff would attempt to reduce that scope of the project, delay the project, or seek other funding sources to cover the gap of funding. In addition to the possibility that projects could be over budget, some projects may be under budget. The City also has some flexibility in selecting software based on funding. Alderperson Robinson said storage databases to handle new software are costly.

Information Technology (IT) Director Tim Bain explained the scope of the project will impact the cost and that some software will not be included in the scope. Other systems such as the core financial software, human resources and land management program will be in scope. In attempting to make more information available to the public, it shifts work to the cloud so it is accessible to the general public. This would entail the City storing data in the cloud as well, which still belongs to the City. Alderperson Robinson expressed concern of the increases of cost for software and storing data. Mr. Bain said it would likely impact operational costs but the City incurs costs by storing the data as well. He said consultants have been included to assess what is currently in place and assist in prioritizing new applications and systems. Mr. Bain explained the IT department is aware that this will entail an enormous amount of work and will create change. Alderperson Robinson said he is concerned about potential hidden costs due to his experience with converting to cloud-based storage.

Alderperson Gilbert asked if Council identified needs were included in the scope of the consultation. Mr. Bain responded affirmatively and said ways to provide transparency and more information to citizens, an interface for utilities, and upgrading systems to be utilized by mobile phones for customers. Alderperson Robinson said different software would be advantageous for staff and reiterated the need for storage. Ms. Gange responded affirmatively and explained having licenses and permits for both the Clerk's office and CED department would be beneficial. Mayor Thoms said there would be some contingency funds available. Mr. Bain said he has discussed budgetary figures with some vendors so there is some idea of the cost even though the scope of the project is still being considered.

Alderperson Robinson asked if software goals could be accomplished with budgeted funds.

Mr. Bain said more time was needed for the consultants to assess the City's needs to determine what could be accomplished with the available funds.

Mr. Thompson said he has had a similar experience with implementing new software, which was accomplished within the allotted budget as there are municipal software applications on the market that do not require costly customizations and special applications.

Alderson Robinson made a distinction between software programs and storage databases versus storing data in the cloud which entails higher operating costs and said storage is an issue with current operations.

Alderson Gilbert asked how much was budgeted for the consulting fee. Mr. Bain said it was anticipated to be about 10 percent of the project, \$225,000.00 and that proposals for the consultations ranged from \$85,000.00 to \$225,000.00. He said the next step would be to assess the proposals to conclude which one would best meet the needs of the City.

Ms. Gange reviewed the first quartile projects and discussed the projects for which scopes have changed including the advanced metering infrastructure, the southwest treatment plant pump station, backup and the generators for the water treatment plant require additional funds to be leveraged. She said City staff have discussed the Façade program and the consensus is to expand the program to include interior projects to attract businesses and to fund current projects as there are no funds at this time. Alderson Poulos asked if this program is citywide. Ms. Gange responded affirmatively. Alderson Robinson asked if broadband and fiber optic infrastructure project was citywide or in a specific area. Mr. Bain said this project is citywide.

Alderson Gilbert asked if changing meters and monthly billing would still be within the changed scope of the advanced metering project. Ms. Gange responded affirmatively. Mr. Bartels explained the original request for \$2.5 million is half of the total \$5 million cost, most of which would be used to replace residential water meters. He said there are options for a drive around meter system that presents some difficulties and a fully automated system which would cost \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00 more than the drive around meter reading system. He said by prioritizing the most difficult to read zones first, having a phased approach and reduced scope would still allow for the project to be implemented.

Alderson Poulos said monthly billing would be advantageous to citizens. Public Works Utilities Superintendent Jason Upton said the current system is "touch read" so they require staff to physically touch the side of the meter to acquire usage information. He said some meters have a small radio, if for example, a business has a meter that is difficult to reach. Mr. Upton said it is not possible to read all the meters for billing on a monthly cycle due to the amount of time required for meter readings. He explained monthly billing would be advantageous to citizens so that increases would have a smaller impact. Mr. Thompson said some municipalities bill monthly based on an estimate and complete assessments quarterly of actual bill amounts. Mr. Upton said Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) would automatically report information to Finance which would enable staff to access information to benefit residents including if they may have a water leak. Mr. Upton explained the AMI and Advanced Meter Reading systems are buildable and that this would be a part of the process in upgrading this system to include efficiency and real time meter readings. He said previous tests were conducted by Johnson Controls, Inc., which determined meters were reading 95 percent accurate to usages.

Alderson Robinson said this would also require new software for databases. Mr. Bain addressed Alderson Robinson's concern and said the billing process begins with reading the meters and monthly billing is not possible without reading meters monthly. He said the three-payment option is simply the quarterly bill separated into three payments. This continues to put the most vulnerable citizens in Rock Island at risk of extremely costly bills due to unnoticed leaks.

Ms. Gange continued reviewing the first quartile projects and said the amount for infill housing was reduced but that funds could be leveraged for projects. Alderperson Robinson asked how many houses can be done with \$100,000.00. CED Director Miles Brainard said that these funds would provide an incentive to a partner which would contribute to the cost of the build but not cover the entire cost. The amount contributed to each build has not yet been determined. He said City staff would seek a partner willing to complete infill housing construction in the City's vacant lots by offering land for free and partial funding in the potential amount of \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00. He said this would depend on the Council's funding allocation decision and the nature of the partnership when it is developed. Alderperson Gilbert asked if an RFP would be put out for partners. Mr. Brainard responded affirmatively and said CED would like to provide the opportunity for different partners to come forward. He said a previous partnership with Habitat for Humanity asked the City to pay specific costs for their project such as a water sewer connection which was between six to eight thousand dollars of a build with a total cost of \$150,000.00 to \$250,000.00. He said funds could be tailored to specific parts of projects, multiple partners could contribute different things, and the City's contributions would be open to a number of different opportunities.

Mr. Brainard explained that HUD CBDG funds could not be utilized for new builds and there are no funds currently for assistance with building a house. Alderperson Robinson asked if this was an example of something previously done before to rehab a home to sell. Mr. Brainard said no and explained CED would design a preliminary in-house parallel program to cover repairs to existing owner-occupied housing that are difficult to fund with CBDG funds. He provided an example of an application for funding with CBDG funds that would limit the scope of assistance due to HUD rules and regulations that would increase the cost of the project. Mr. Brainard provided an example of refraining from winterizing homes due to exterior lead paint and that this same project that would cost "x" amount would be increased dramatically until it was no longer feasible due to rules and regulations for CBDG funds. Mr. Brainard said the parallel funding would supplement the HUD-funded projects rather than a whole house rehab program.

Alderperson Gilbert said the amount passed in the budget from the Annual Action Plan was doubled. Mr. Brainard responded affirmatively and said these funds would help to cover a missing piece of the program. He said he asked the Community Development Team to identify items they are not usually able to address and develop programming to address them without adding additional paperwork for the applicant. Alderperson Robinson ask how this would be reported in regards to ARPA. Ms. Gange said this category is for disproportionately impacted and is demonstrated through the census tract which includes most of the City's rehab housing. Alderperson Robinson clarified his question to be in reference to the timeframe of expending funds. Ms. Gange said funds must be allocated by the end of 2024 and funds have to be expended by the end of 2026. Mr. Brainard said information collected with the current application included income eligibility which can be utilized for ARPA reporting as well.

Ms. Gange reviewed the 2nd quartile projects with reduced scopes including support to businesses, Douglas Park lights project was reduced from \$300,000.00 to \$200,000.00 due to funding from a T-Mobile grant and Friends of Douglas Park, and Sunset Marina funding was reduced from \$3.5 million to \$1 million dollars as required for the FEMA grant. Alderperson Gilbert asked if more information could be received from F3 Marina or commercial brokers or appraisers regarding options for the property. Mr. Bartels said this would depend on what that City was looking for and clarified that F3 is a management company. Alderperson Gilbert said she would like to know what is needed for a sale, what the City could expect to make from a sale, and if the City would be able to recoup its money. She said she would like to see options before the City invests additional money into Sunset Marina. Mr. Bartels explained that if the City would like to address the 400 dock, then the FEMA grant must be addressed as it is going to expire in July 2023. He said there have been previous presentations regarding needed improvements at Sunset Marina which total \$16 million but that not all the projects need to be

completed. Mr. Bartels said the revenue of a fully occupied marina would not cover the expenses. Alderperson Gilbert responded affirmatively and asked if several commercial brokers could assess if the property were viable for a sale. Mr. Bartels asked the Council if they would like Public Works or CED to move forward with that suggestion.

Alderperson Gilbert expressed concern about investing up to \$16 million into the marina without seeing a return on funds. Mr. Bartels said these funds would not be returned to the City due to the small number of slips at the marina. Mr. Bartels said Public Works has been presenting information to Council about making long-term decisions about the future of the marina since 2016. Alderperson Healy asked if the City would like to be in the boat slip business. Mayor Thoms said he was uncertain if the timing of the FEMA grant would align with investigating whether or not to sell or rent. Alderperson Healy recommended assessing options to know how much money the City would be losing. Mr. Bartels said the City would lose \$250,000.00 this year. Alderperson Swanson asked the amount of the FEMA grant. Mr. Bartels said the FEMA grant is for \$1.4 million or 75 percent of the project costs. He said the cost estimates from 2020 were approximately \$2.9 million for the 400-dock including electrical upgrades. Mayor Thoms said these will likely cost more now due to inflation.

Alderperson Gilbert asked for clarification of the estimated costs and available funding for the marina. Mayor Thoms said \$2.9 million is the estimated cost for indicated repairs. Mr. Bartels said the City's match is 25%, which would be approximately \$775,000.00 to complete the project and affirmed that the electrical component is included in the \$2.9 million estimate. Alderperson Gilbert asked if there was still a deficit of half a million dollars. Mr. Bartels said the new estimate accounts for inflation costs at \$2.9 million. Mr. Thompson said 25 percent of the project was \$775,000.00 and other changes included electrical upgrades and some shoreline restoration.

Alderperson Robinson remarked that deciding what to do with the marina is difficult, but is necessary due to ongoing expenses. Mr. Bartels said the City is running out of time to utilize FEMA grant money as there are no more extensions available. Alderperson Swanson said this decision is vital to the life of the marina as the repairs are needed in order for the City to be able to lease, sell, or utilize the repairs in the future. She said she is in favor of the repairs and inaction on the City's behalf to pay 25 percent of the cost would result in the failure of the marina. Alderperson Healy said the marina could be sold at a lower price. Alderperson Gilbert said the other docks in the marina need repaired as well.

Mayor Thoms said the City could consider becoming a recognized City Port District, which would make federal infrastructure money available for dredging and other repairs for small boat marinas with pleasure crafts. He said this requires the state legislature to pass a bill authorizing a city-wide port district for the City of Rock Island. Alderperson Hurt referenced agenda material that identified the City of Rock Island as the only major city along the Mississippi that does not have a port district. Alderperson Hurt asked if Council moved forward with utilizing ARPA funds, could allocated ARPA funds be replaced by federal funds later. Ms. Gange said grants do not typically work in that way. Alderperson Healy asked if \$1 million could come from the General Fund that could be replaced. Mr. Thompson explained that grant funds are typically applied for in one year and awarded in the following year which would be CY 24. Mayor Thoms responded affirmatively. Mr. Thompson asked if these funds were categorized under revenue replacement. Ms. Gange said it was as it was not eligible under restricted funds. Alderperson Hurt stated support for the project with FEMA funds as repairs are needed to move forward with a sale, lease, or if deemed a port district. Alderperson Swanson said failure of the marina would not encourage support for a Port District. Mayor Thoms said he is open to long term options for selling or leasing but that repairs are needed before those are feasible.

Alderperson Poulos said the value of the amenity to citizens and visitors should also be considered. Alderperson Robinson expressed concern for investing funds that the City will not

receive a return on investment. Alderperson Swanson said amenities are needed to draw people into the City. Alderperson Robinson said a small percentage of people utilize the marina. He said funds could be utilized for other projects within the City that are more needed. Mayor Thoms said options are limited and asked what that City would do otherwise if repairs are not made. Mr. Bartels said the Army Corps of Engineers is required to maintain the entryway into Potters Lake from the agreement of Safe Harbors Act in the 1950s, and the City is responsible for the boat access ramps. He clarified that even if the marina is not maintained, the City will always be required to maintain boat docks through the Safe Harbors Act.

Alderperson Gilbert asked where the potential port district would be located. Mayor Thoms said a terminal must be owned by the municipality which it is and is leased to Alter which still qualifies the City for a port district. He said the Port District would encompass the whole city and make ancillary funds available to support the railroad, infrastructure funds for highway Route 92, and other components of the City that support the port. Alderperson Gilbert asked why this wasn't brought to Council's attention previously. Mayor Thoms said this was brought forward by a retired Corps of Engineer Bob Sprinkler and several counties in the area have moved forward with it. He said this district was not being established by the county so that an intergovernmental agreement did not have to be implemented. Alderperson Gilbert asked if the city was capable of establishing the port. Mayor Thoms responded affirmatively and explained there has not been a port district denied yet.

Mr. Bartels said the request in March was for a consultant to assess cost for design of the 400 dock and electrical repair estimate. He worked with Edgewater Resources and F3 Marina and these estimates could be presented to Council in September if they desired. Alderperson Gilbert clarified that permission for an RFQ was what was being sought. Mr. Bartels responded affirmatively and explained that needed to take place before design services are contracted.

Ms. Gange continued with presenting the second quartile project recommendations including the reduced scope for the Denkmann Basketball Court Resurfacing by \$100,000.00 and support for nonprofits was reduced as it did not rank high on the public survey. Mr. Thompson said staff would like direction from Council regarding the guiding criteria for support for nonprofits and if the Council wanted to have an application process. He said these funds would not be utilized for revenue losses, rather support for ongoing programing which support goals and guiding principles of Council. He said the allocation of \$750,000.00 included tourism as a major priority of the federal funding but that it could be separated. Alderperson Hurt said he would like for it to be separated. Ms. Gange said this could be accommodated if it were supported by other Council members. She said that mental health was ranked fifth as a priority among public survey participants and that mental health and homelessness could be made a criterion for funding as well. Alderperson Swanson expressed concern regarding subrecipient agreements due to the requirement to report how ARPA funds are expended and if it were spent out of compliance of the ARPA guidelines, the City would be required to pay it back. Ms. Gange said the recommendation is to utilize unrestricted funds for the support to small businesses and nonprofits since the reporting of restricted funds is so rigorous. Alderperson Swanson indicated support for funding mental health being due to the needs of the community and the agencies in Rock Island providing services.

Alderperson Robinson proposed utilizing the existing Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to receive applications and distribute funds for nonprofit organizations versus creating a new process or program. Ms. Gange said the ordinance for the CAC identified the specific allocation for \$50,000.00 of gaming funds. Alderperson Robinson asked who would determine how funds are awarded if not through the existing committee. Ms. Gange recommended a new committee be comprised of herself, Mr. Thompson, Ms. Barnes, and a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and a few members of the community who are business owners or part of a nonprofit organization. Alderperson Gilbert proposed utilizing a resolution to expend ARPA funds through the CAC. Alderperson Swanson asked if an alderperson is on the CAC. Ms. Gange said

there is not. Alderperson Swanson stated opposition since these funds are at the Council's discretion to expend and that they are responsible for fiscal health and transparency of the City.

Alderperson Gilbert asked if unrestricted funds for assistance to nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and aid to tourism are from lost revenue funds. Ms. Gange responded affirmatively and said she would describe in greater detail later in the presentation. Mr. Thompson suggested funds could be reimbursement based after the agencies achieve their objectives. Mr. Brainard said the existing façade program is structured as reimbursement based. Alderperson Healy said funds should be leveraged with other grants and funding to further benefit the City. Alderperson Swanson said funds should be safeguarded from manipulation for personal gain. Mr. Thompson said the leveraging of funds could be made a requirement. Ms. Gange said an RFP process was previously suggested to provide an opportunity for applicants to identify what they could provide for the City. Alderperson Hurt asked if mental health funding would be categorized as revenue loss. Ms. Gange said funds were not specifically allocated to mental health. Alderperson Gilbert asked if funds were available for a mental health designation under the category of public health. Alderperson Healy suggested the allocation for \$750,000.00 be divided evenly among aid to tourism, mental health and nonprofits. Alderperson Gilbert asked if tourism included hospitality. Ms. Gange responded affirmatively.

Alderperson Parker proposed a task force be developed to have more nuanced conversations regarding how assistance to tourism in the City should be carried out. He said he has been a strong advocate for funds to be utilized for activities to support tourism beyond Ya Maka My Weekend. Alderperson Gilbert said she would only support a task force if it were under the Open Meetings Act so that community and Council members can attend. Ms. Gange said a focus group would also be applicable.

Alderperson Healy said partnerships could be formed with various events depending on data showing how many people are brought to the area. Ms. Gange asked Council for direction as to how to move forward with tourism. Alderperson Hurt said he liked the idea of dividing tourism dollars into three. Alderperson Swanson said she believed the mental health portion of relief could be handled by non-profits. Ms. Gange said whatever would be easier to report to the federal government would be best.

Alderperson Gilbert said Rock Island is a rarity in that there were many nonprofits that take up the slack in providing a number of services needed in the community. She said she would prefer to not shortchange them. Alderperson Healy said the idea was to do the most good for the largest amount of people.

Alderperson Parker said there should be more nuanced conversations about all three subjects, as it is difficult to know where the needs are without experts in mental health. Ms. Gange asked if it was the preference of Council to form task groups regarding the subject, and suggested she could gather individual preferences through one-on-one meetings the following week.

Alderperson Parker said he wished to get started as soon as possible with regards to the tourism category, and have an entity formed to begin the discussion of the subject. Ms. Gange said a Study Session or focus group could be used for such a discussion. Alderperson Gilbert said any kind of group would be subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Ms. Gange discussed the Brownfield Remediation recommendation. She said she recommended removing it from the list as the City has the opportunity to obtain a grant with the help of the National League of Cities (NLC). Alderperson Gilbert said the proposal did not identify the location. Community and Economic Development Director Miles Brainard said the two projects were located at 2425 5th Avenue and a vacant lot, which is the last Brownfield site owned by the City. He noted that when the downtown TIF ended, there was money set aside for that particular property, and a Phase 1 and Phase 2 site assessment has already been completed, so the cost for site remediation has been estimated, but there is not sufficient funds



to cover it. The proposal would cover the remainder, and would also boost the Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund, which would help provide economic development incentives.

Ms. Gange discussed third and fourth quartile ARPA recommended projects. These include demolitions in various locations in the City, with the recommended amount totaling \$250,000, and would meet specific government criteria. The Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center (RIFAC) would receive \$750,000 to cover necessary projects like pool, lighting, and locker room upgrades. She recommended fleet replacement funds to cover the most in-need Fire and Police Department vehicles, as well as the snow plow fleet. Alderperson Robinson asked if the fleet replacements for detectives were being purchased or leased. Mr. Thompson noted that the replacement funds mentioned in the proposal do not cover detective vehicles, but rather supplement existing funds meant to replace the snow plow fleet and acquire new ambulances. He added that the current proposal as stands does not cover the Police vehicle fleet. Mr. Bartels said it hadn't yet been decided if the vehicles would be purchased or leased, but both have been done previously. Alderperson Hurt asked if the police fleet vehicles were currently being leased through Enterprise. Mr. Bartels said the patrol squad is leased, but not the detectives. Alan Vanderheyden, Fleet Manager, addressed Council and said that eight snow fleet single axle vehicles would be replaced. Two tandem vehicles would be replaced for situations such as water main breaks, as snow fleet vehicles cannot support main breaks in the winter season. He said the current ambulances are at their 10-year mark, which is the general lifespan.

Alderperson Robinson asked what a tandem vehicle indicated. Mr. Vanderheyden said they are the larger utility vehicles weighing 66,000 pounds. Alderperson Gilbert asked how many ambulances were to be purchased. Mr. Vanderheyden said two would be purchased in order to put into the rotation of three total to regulate usage. He added that estimate numbers have been received from Enterprise for other fleet vehicles, and leasing is possible. He suggested purchasing vehicles alongside leasing so that equity numbers do not drop below acceptable numbers. Alderperson Robinson asked about smaller snow fleet vehicles that could plow alleys, and if that was still possible. Mr. Vanderheyden said the City currently leases two F-150 trucks for plowing, and two additional trucks could be considered, but it is not currently budgeted for 2023. Mr. Bartels noted that the City did begin plowing alleys as of the past winter after the main roads were finished, which takes two to three days after main.

Alderperson Healy asked if the City currently owned the ambulances, and if they could be sold. Mr. Vanderheyden confirmed they were owned by the City, and two would be sold, with the revenue returning to the replacement fund. One would be repurposed to replace the emergency response truck currently utilized by the Police Department. He noted that in order to have 2023 vehicle build dates in place, the funding would need to be available in September 2022, as prices would likely continue to rise. Mr. Bartels said the original ask of 50-plus vehicles was requested because they are in dire need of replacement, as maintenance for the current fleet has cost the City \$1.2 million dollars over the past two years. Mayor Thoms asked if it was possible to get back to replenishing a vehicle depreciation fund that did exist. Mr. Bartels confirmed that the replacement vehicles that are proposed would almost deplete the \$1.7 million in the fund. Mr. Thompson said the plan would be to replenish the fund on schedule for vehicle amortization, and the goal would be to do the same for building maintenance and computer replacement programs.

Mr. Vanderheyden said there is an amortization schedule paid through Asset Works for certain vehicles, but the average fleet age is 15 to 20 years. Alderperson Poulos said there have been surprises in recent years regarding the Fire Department fleet, and asked what the average age was for the larger vehicles. Fire Chief Jeff Yerkey said there are two engines over 20 years old, the newest is from 2020, another is from 2016, and the ladder truck is from 2015. He said the rescue squad vehicle will need replacement soon. Alderperson Poulos asked if this type of expense would fall under ARPA guidelines for replacement. Ms. Gange said it would need to come out of the unrestricted or lost revenue ARPA funds.

Aldersperson Parker said the amortization fund becomes a political issue each year when the budget is set, and he has voted no on the budgets when there is not sufficient investment in such funds. Mr. Bartels noted that every vehicle in the Public Works fleet is a critical vehicle as well, and any additional funds towards replacement would be welcomed. Ms. Gange said the recommendation is to react to the fleet needs due to time sensitivity. Mr. Bartels confirmed Public Works was ready to come forward with the snow fleet request, but ambulance proposals probably would not be ready until October or November.

Mayor Thoms agreed that the City has an aging fleet. Mr. Bartels said Public Works was ready to move forward with the snow fleet and two-tandem axle trucks that could be brought back for Council approval in September. Ambulances and other police vehicles would need to go out for bids. Mayor Thoms said if Council was in agreement regarding the vehicles, it could be approved when the request is ready.

Next, Ms. Gange noted the new Midtown Library project, recommending \$500,000 of City support. She also noted the Hauberg Carriage Haus, recommending \$150,000 for that project. She pointed to an additional list of projects that were not recommended for funding. Council had no comment on the list.

Ms. Gange discussed additional City Manager recommendations. This included new housing incentives in the amount of \$400,000, which would be earmarked to have a partner assist in building new houses for specific demographics. Additional recommendations include police hiring and recruitment in the amount of \$250,000 and downtown security in the amount of \$300,000. Police Chief Rich Landi addressed Council regarding hiring and retention practices, noting that all agencies are offering various incentives to attract officers. Bonuses to prospects would be given over a three-year span and would be reimbursed on a prorated basis if they left. Chief Landi said he would like to do what he can to retain senior personnel. Aldersperson Healy said a good idea may be to offer a higher bonus to hire an officer on a lateral transfer.

Chief Landi discussed proposed downtown security measures. He envisions funding going towards an ambassador model who can assist with situations and alert law enforcement for engaging with individuals. He suggested the possibility of having a substation for ambassadors in the downtown area, similar to what has previously been done, where officers could work in full from that location.

Aldersperson Robinson said he would prefer a substation in an area where it is needed more based on shots fired incidents as opposed to the District. Chief Landi said previous substations were paid for through federal grants for a three-year period, and although he agreed with Aldersperson Robinson, it would be a matter of staffing. Aldersperson Poulos asked if this was directly related to the SSA area, as he agreed with Aldersperson Robinson as well. Aldersperson Gilbert said downtown businesses have said that security is a priority, and they do not mind paying overtime for officers as part of the SSA.

Aldersperson Hurt said he had conversations with Mr. Cullen regarding a building for a substation in the downtown, and suggested partnerships to free up money for another substation. Aldersperson Poulos said it would be necessary to have mobile officers in problem areas, as those causing issues are as well. Chief Landi said the main point is that there is not enough staffing for the downtown, but hopefully by 2023 there will be. He added that when there were downtown officers, they primarily worked weekends and assisted businesses with various problems. Aldersperson Healy said the City does not need a substation in the downtown at this point. Chief Landi said it depends on what the renovated downtown area will look like and what the needs will be.

Chief Landi discussed the proposal for a license plate reader, which has been used on a small

scale already, but has limited potential. He noted that it showed some success with regards to stolen vehicles, but it relies on a limited server system. The new proposal would be a cloud-based and leased system that would hook the department into a state and national network of information. The proposed system would allow the department to locate vehicles and provide an investigative tool that is not currently available. Alderperson Healy asked how long the lease would be for. Chief Landi said it would be for as long as the City wants them, at a cost of approximately \$2,500.00 per camera, per year. He noted that with staff shortages, there is more reliance on technology for supplementation.

Ms. Gange noted revenue loss as a recommendation at \$1 million, for which the distribution would be determined. Mr. Bartels addressed Council that it could be used in a variety of ways or locations, such as a number of arterial streets or pavement patching distributed amongst wards. Alderperson Poulos asked if there would be the same types of ARPA restrictions within the lost revenue category. City Manager Thompson said Ms. Gange's research had shown that the proposed program does fit within the lost revenue framework. Ms. Gange discussed the restricted funds, which is the majority of projects, as well as expenditure categories. The overall restricted funds total \$16,969,650.85. Unrestricted funds total \$9,517,709.84.

Ms. Gange asked Council if they had additional questions. Mayor Thoms discussed items that did not make the priority list, noting that the downtown Library needs to be addressed, but is continually put off. Alderperson Gilbert said an ongoing theme in the staff projects was building and maintenance projects, and wondered why that would not be included in the budget. Mr. Thompson said it is best practice to create and amortize a building repair and replacement fund. He added that it can be a challenge to keep that in the budget, and is usually one of the first cuts or reductions. Alderperson Gilbert asked what the costs were for the Library. Alderperson Swanson noted that the total costs were near \$900,000 for wiring, restrooms, windows, flooring, and interior painting. Library Director Angela Campbell addressed Council and said nearly \$1 million had been spent in the past decade, but still needs Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) support or within the budget. Alderperson Swanson noted that when the Library comes forward with a levy increase, it is opposed each year.

Alderperson Swanson said projects not accomplished through ARPA funds could be dealt with via CIP funds. Mr. Thompson confirmed it was an ongoing conversation. Alderperson Gilbert asked what the funding source was for CIPs. Ms. Gange and Mr. Thompson both confirmed it has traditionally been gaming funds. Finance Director Linda Barnes said there are several funding sources for the Capital Improvement budget, including water and wastewater rates, TIF funding, gaming funds, motor fuel taxes, and the General Fund depending on availability. There is currently \$1.7 million available to consider for CIP.

Ms. Gange said she would be contacting Council members to arrange for individual meetings with herself and Mr. Thompson for additional discussion. She said these sessions would be used to get feedback from each individual Council member regarding the overall ARPA plans.

8. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to adjourn; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ ***Naomi Torrence*** \_\_\_\_\_

Naomi Torrence, Deputy City Clerk