

**WINSTON-SALEM CITY COUNCIL**  
**Virtual Special Meeting**  
**August 23, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Joines called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and stated due to the Safer At Home order, all Council Members are participating virtually. Council Members will vote by a roll call vote. A Council Member will be recognized, raise their hand, and state their vote. He then asked the City Clerk to call the roll.*

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Council Member Robert C. Clark, Council Member Kevin Mundy, Council Member Annette Scippio, Mayor Allen Joines, Mayor Pro Tempore Denise D. Adams, Council Member James Taylor Jr., Council Member Jeff MacIntosh, and Council Member Barbara Hanes Burke

**Absent:** Council Member John C. Larson

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**GENERAL AGENDA**

**G-1.** Presentation of the Potential Framework for Using the City's Allocation of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

*Mr. Lee Garrity, City Manager, stated it is a pleasure to present the framework regarding the use of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. He said Staff will be presenting an equity focused framework that aligns with the Mayor and Councils' strategic priorities. He noted a phased approach will be suggested to immediately provide relief and recovery for the local economy, while reserving most of the funds for evidence based long lasting programs with positive outcomes. He said the framework is ongoing and no final decisions have been made. He stated Staff is recommending a major public engagement and input process starting in September. He said he is excited to help the Mayor and City Council implement these strategies that have the possibility to change lives and move people forward. He introduced Scott Tesh.*

*Scott Tesh, Director of Performance and Accountability, provided the presentation. Mr. Tesh noted that the City of Winston-Salem will receive a total of \$57.7 million dollars from the Coronavirus Local Recovery Fund and the City's first tranche of approximately \$21.8 million has been received. He stated the framework will outline the guiding principles of process transparency, economic restoration, community transformation, fiscal soundness, and equitable outcomes. Public Input will be collected at multiple steps in the policy and program formation phases. He noted the law and associated rules for the funding are that funds are to be used to help restore the local economy and help communities that were disproportionately affected by the pandemic to recover. He stated some professional organizations such as the National League of Cities, North Carolina League of Municipalities, and the UNC School Government have suggested to wait for additional guidance.*

*Mr. Tesh stated the potential uses have been researched by Staff and have a direct alignment to the Mayor and City Council's strategic priorities. Phase One Programs could include: Community violence intervention programs, recovery grants for small businesses, recovery grants to travel, tourism, and arts non-profits, recovery grants for social service and restoration of City reduced revenues. He noted the total for phase one would be \$13,650,000.*

*He stated future phases could include housing projects, social assistance, digital divide, and economic assistance. He noted that some of these uses may require an administrative cost of approximately \$2,550,000.*

*In response to Mayor Pro-Tem Adams, Mr. Tesh stated Staff will bring all items for funding before the Mayor and City Council. He stated the Treasury Department will not need to approve each individual project noting that if the City can justify the project per the final guidance then it should be approved. He stated it is imperative to follow the guidelines.*

*In response to Council Member Scippio, Mr. Tesh stated if the City approved a project and it did not meet the guidelines the City will be responsible for repaying the funds. Mr. Tesh noted that Staff will work closely with the City Attorney's office to determine eligibility.*

*The following request were made by the Mayor and City Council:*

- 1. Percentages if incomes used to designate the tracts.*
- 2. How the tract calculation was figured.*
- 3. Census tract numbers by wards.*
- 4. Street names added to map as well as the wards.*
- 5. A comparison of other municipalities census tracts and poverty levels.*

*Mr. Tesh provided information regarding using the funds for infrastructure such as water, sewer, stormwater, and broadband.*

*Mayor Joines reminded everyone that there may be other funds available for infrastructure expenditures.*

*Mr. Tesh explained the federal objectives of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding stating transparency, restoration, transformation, fiscal soundness, and equity would be guidelines. He noted equity considerations would be evaluated to minimize impacts to historically under-represented and under-resourced community groups. He said Staff is suggesting a phased approach with phase one being restorative and immediate in nature requests such as small business assistance grant programs, social service non-profit recovery assistant grants, recovery grants for travel, tourism, hospitality, and arts non-profits, employee premium pay, and community violence intervention programs. He stated phase two would include transformation priorities such as: non-profit capital assistance grants, housing investments, other transformative opportunities, and restoration of City lost revenue.*

*Mr. Tesh provided a list of how the City has engaged the public to date and what the future plans are regarding engaging the public, noting public engagement and communication would be essential in determining funding uses.*

*The following request were made by the Mayor and City Council:*

- *A list of uses by the State that are prohibited.*
- *The Qualified Census Tracts map be provided on the City's website*
- *A matrix that explains the alignment of projects with the final rules, by category and specifically for the qualified census tracts.*
- *A summary of what the County's strategies are and how the City is working with the County to prevent redundancy.*
- *A matrix of how the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds align with other funds received such as ERAP.*

*Mayor Joines thanked Mr. Tesh and Staff for a great presentation.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.*