

Regular Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
June 6, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall West Meeting Room 1, 111 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Donna Osuch, David Preleski, Cindy Bombard, Susan Sadecki, Mark Peterson, Eric Clemons (4:06 p.m.) and John Smith (4:28 p.m.)

Zoom: Mickey Goldwasser, Howard Schmelder and Glenn Heiser.

Absent: Thomas O'Brien, David Maikowski, and Michael Dumas

Also present: Justin Malley
Via Zoom: Diane Waldron, Dawn Leger, Dawn Nielsen, Stacy Farber and Jose Roman, UHY

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Participation

None

3. Approval of minutes: May 23, 2022

Commissioner Bombard made a motion seconded by Commissioner Preleski "to approve the minutes from May 23, 2022." Motion approved.

4. Discussion with UHY Advisors N.E. LLC.

Jose Roman, UHY, provided updates to the Task Force. On Friday, all the draft contracts were sent to the applicants. This week UHY will reach out and schedule individual meetings to address all concerns and questions, the goal is to have these be returned in a timely manner.

Mayor Caggiano stated all questions received by the City or Task Force members will be directed to UHY. The Building Better Bristol grant participant questions will be fielded through ECD as it's a City grant program funded with ARPA funds. There are a lot of intricate pieces for these programs and the next four to six weeks the focus should be on getting these contracts executed. The next meeting should focus on the Building Bristol contracts. Susan questioned if there was a deadline. Justin will revisit to confirm if deadlines are stated in the contracts. Jack, Jose and Justin have been confirming those who will be applying and the first communication for the program will be distributed soon.

Commissioner Goldwasser questioned the deadlines as ARPA is funding the Building Bristol program as a whole. Justin feels the program would be bound by the ARPA deadlines as well. Mickey discussed managing the organizations who apply for the funds and that the funding will need to be implemented in a timely manner. Suggested accelerating the dates within the contract for

the respective programs. Mayor Caggiano suggested the money be committed by the organizations by December 2023, which gives one full year to December 31, 2024 for the ARPA Taskforce to reallocate the funds if not committed by then. Diane Waldron agreed with the Mayor's statements, as it allows the City time to reallocate, if needed. Justin stated the City will follow a format used for CDBG, a plan and a budget will be needed to show where the match will come from, if not available at this time. Mayor Caggiano stated the funds come back to a City project if the applicants cannot use the funds, as those can be spent easily as many City projects were not awarded.

To recap, Mayor Caggiano stated in the next six weeks the ARPA contracts should be signed and in the next six months the Building Bristol contracts should be signed.

5. Any other Business

Diane Waldron stated the City received the second half of funding in the amount of \$8 million today.

Mayor Caggiano stated he would like to hear from the subcommittees what their top two projects are. He stated that for the City the parking garage and Kern Park stand out. Dave Preleski discussed the Bristol Works, Bristol Bazaar, Precision Nova and Movia projects for the business community. Donna Osuch stated for non-profits the Environmental Learning Center accessible trail and Bristol Health project. The Mayor is working with Dawn Nielsen to highlight priority projects to the community.

Mayor Caggiano stated as everyone is aware \$24.7 million has been allocated of these funds. Recently an opportunity has come up for infrastructure funding which the Task Force may want to fund using some of the remaining funds. The opportunity would be an investment in the infrastructure of Route 6 for a fire hydrant that does not exist near the new development of Chipotle and Starbucks. This would be a request from the land owner, not the businesses. Mickey questioned if this development did not happen at this time, would this have to be done in the future to make this problem marketable, which the Mayor confirmed. The Mayor also discussed a visit from the Deputy Secretary of Transportation who is coming to Bristol next week to look at a variety of Bristol's projects.

Eric Clemons announced his resignation from the Task Force.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Sadecki made a motion seconded by Commissioner Bombard "to adjourn" at 4:46 p.m.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary