Regular Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
June 20, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall West Meeting Room 1, 111 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Caggiano, David Preleski, Susan Sadecki, Mickey Goldwasser, Glenn Heiser, Thomas O'Brien, and Michael Dumas

Zoom: John Smith, Mark Peterson, Howard Schmelder and David Maikowski

Absent: Cindy Bombard

Also present: Justin Malley, Diane Waldron, and Robin Manuele
Via Zoom: Dawn Leger, Dawn Nielsen, Jose Roman and Jack Reagan, 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: June 6, 2022

Commissioner Goldwasser made a motion seconded by Commissioner Schmelder "to approve the minutes from June 6, 2022." Motion approved.

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

Jack provided the Task Force with updates. UHY has been working with applicants on the contracts along with ECD.

Susan Sadecki questioned if all of the contracts had been sent out to grant recipients because she was aware of at least one grant recipient who had not received a contract. Mayor Caggiano stated these contracts went out to the person who applied for the grant, which isn't always the person who will be completing the contract. The Mayor asked that if UHY has not yet heard back from anyone for an appointment he asked that they follow up within the next couple of days.

Dave Preleski stated the Mayor spoke at the State of the City breakfast noted that in comparison to local surrounding communities Bristol has allocated its ARPA funding very differently. The Mayor noted that East Windsor has approximately $1 million left and is now going to do a similar competitive grant process. Many towns had just the Mayor, BOF Chair, and Comptroller (or similar) get together and allocate the funds.

5. Discussion regarding Development Infrastructure projects

Justin Malley stated the City subcommittee discussed the Water Fire Hydrant Route 6 development project of the former Ruby Tuesday's location which will be demolished for two other restaurants (Chipotle and Starbucks). This developer has faced surprises on the site regarding fire infrastructure. Commissioner Schmelder stated he was originally against this, but now that he has learned the hydrant will be on public land he is in favor of the project.

Commission O'Brien made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith "To approve $22,500 to install a public fire hydrant for the Starbucks/Chipotle project" Motion approved.

Justin explained several downtown infrastructure projects which additional funding is needed to move these projects along.

- Transformer Relocation – There is a need to relocate the existing Eversource transformer/switch at the corner of Hope Street and North Main Street to allow Carrier's mixed-use development. **Approximate Cost: $300,000**
- Retaining Wall – The City committed to assisting in the installation of a large retaining wall necessary on the railroad embankment at the eastern edge of the site, running from the area behind McDonalds to the municipal parking area. **Anticipated Cost: $300,000**
- Main Street Streetscape – The City will design and install a streetscape on Main Street in front of "City Place." **Anticipated Cost: $250,000**
- CTtransit Bus Stop – The bus stop/layover area near McDonalds on North Main Street must be relocated to another area to accommodate on-street commercial/retail parking for the Carrier mixed-use project. There may be costs associated with engineering/construction of the new bus stop if an on-street location cannot be secured. **Anticipated Cost: $100,000.**

These downtown infrastructure projects total $800,000 with $150,000 already approved for downtown infrastructure. Commissioner Goldwasser questioned where the transformer would be relocated to. Ray Rogozinski responded it would be relocated between the proposed parking garage on Hope Street and Bristol Hospital.

Discussion was held on these proposed projects. Commissioner Schmelder stated these projects are not for a specific project for they are for the Centre Square development as a whole. Commissioner Sadecki questioned if the bus stop would be sheltered, which Ray confirmed it would be. Mayor Caggiano stated they had a positive visit with the Department of Transportation. The discussion was very innovative for the future of transportation. Commissioner Maikowski questioned who the owner was of the retaining wall and who was responsible for the maintenance/upkeep. Carrier will be constructing the wall and be responsible for future maintenance.

Commissioner Sadecki made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dumas "To approve $800,000 in additional ARPA funds for downtown infrastructure projects including the transformer relocation, retaining wall, Main Street Streetscape and bus stop relocation projects." Motion approved.

Mayor Caggiano stated $800,000 in ARPA funds have already been allocated for UHY, however only one year at a time has been allocated. Diane is recommending that an additional $150,000 be approved.

Commissioner Goldwasser made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dumas "To approve $150,000 for the UHY contract." Motion approved.

Justin stated that he has been discussing with UHY a process moving forward for monitoring the existing projects including how unforeseen budget overages will be handled. Also, guidelines for the remaining ARPA funds was discussed.

Justin stated there are some grantees who are now experiencing changes within their organization and they want to modify the scope of their projects. Justin has suggested they write up a narrative to be presented to the subcommittees again. It was agreed that any changes should be subtle as the original project scope is what was reviewed by the subcommittees. There was concern that if there were significant changes to the scope it could invalidate the review and validation process used by UHY to determine eligibility and recommendation by the sub-committees.

6. Any other Business

None

7. Adjournment

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

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary