

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
Jeanne Hess
Stephanie Hoffman
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Qianna Decker
Esteven Juarez*

Also present were Deputy City Manager Laura Lam, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and Deputy City Clerk Shelby Moss.

Commissioners Excused

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Decker and Juarez. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Communications

A partnership was announced between the City and Western Michigan University to provide training in the Moral Courage Method of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Assistant Public Safety Chief and Interim DEI Director Victor Green, Western Michigan University Vice President for Government Relations Jeff Breneman, and author and founder of Moral Courage College Irshad Manji offered remarks on this partnership.

Public Comments

When an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

In-Person Comments

Linda Miller expressed concerns regarding the unattractive appearance of Kalamazoo and the homeless encampments around the City.

Wendy Fields, City resident, expressed concerns about the limited ingress and loading areas at the Juneteenth event in Bronson Park and requested the City Commission adopt a policy requiring multiple entrance and exit points at events.

2022-00

Jack Urban, City resident, expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the Committee of the Whole meetings. Mr. Urban's written comments were filed with the paperwork for this meeting.

Call-In Comments

None

*Commissioner Juarez arrived at 5:20 p.m.

2022-00

Presentation re:
American Rescue Plan
Act - ARPA

Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, Management Services Director and Chief Financial Officer Steve Vicenzi, Foundation for Excellence (FFE) Manager Steven Brown, iParametrics Long-Term Community Recovery Director Kennedy Shannon, and iParametrics Emergency Management Senior Project Manager Ben Redifer delivered a presentation entitled *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) City's*

Budget Process Overview & Update June 21, 2022. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to questions from Commissioners, the presenters provided the following information:

- the ARPA projects and budgets to date included \$1.5 million for housing, \$275,000 for infrastructure investment, \$1.5 million for community safety, \$1 million for youth programming, \$4.5 million to replace lost street and parking revenues, \$460,000 for Good Governance investments, and \$1.1 million to invest in United Way programs.
- to receive ARPA funding through the City, individuals may need to partner with organizations to be their fiduciary agents to ensure compliance with federal regulations.
- the City should practice multi-year planning to allocate and spend ARPA funds because the money had to be allocated by 2024 and spent by end of 2026. The City should also use a needs-based approach to funding decisions, which involved identifying a need and then figuring out how to fund a solution to address the need.
- if more projects were funded with ARPA dollars, FFE dollars would stay in the endowment fund and earn interest, which could yield a significant impact to the future endowment value. The City could see a return on investment of \$100 million dollars in the endowment by the year 2040 if \$7 million per year over 4 years (\$28 million total) were allowed to stay in the endowment fund rather than be spent.
- the City Commission needed to be mindful of the existing plans that guided the City's work, such as Imagine Kalamazoo 2025, the seven existing Neighborhood Plans, the Community Sustainability Plan, and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The City already had a tremendous scope of need in its own plans and should weigh those needs against the desire to fund outside organizations.
- the City could grant ARPA dollars directly to organizations through a grant program within the City organization or the City could use an outside entity to coordinate the grant giving.
- the City of Kalamazoo was more advanced than similarly situated cities when it came to having a plan for ARPA spending.

Commissioner Praedel expressed concerns regarding the needs of the community today versus investing dollars for the future. Commissioner Praedel reasoned the future was not relevant to a child today if the child's current needs were not being met; therefore, investment to fund the future did not matter because a failure to address needs today could cause greater harm for young people tomorrow.

Mayor Anderson advised the public the City Commission was receiving this presentation and funding options from City staff but would not be making any final decisions at this meeting. Mayor Anderson thanked the presenters for explaining the rules and ensuring the money would be spent in an appropriate way.

2022-00

Presentation re:
American Rescue Plan
Act - ARPA (cont'd)

2022-00

Presentation re:
American Rescue Plan
Act – ARPA (cont'd)

Commissioner Hoffman highlighted the need to continue to spend APRA dollars through the lens of DEI, and she stated it was imperative that the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community have access and opportunity to participate in the process.

CFO Steve Vicenzi presented information regarding the purpose of governmental budgeting, defined the roles and responsibilities of the Commission and staff, and provided a timeline for the FY2023 budget process.

Deputy City Manager Lam explained the need for long-range budget planning for new projects to allow the City to find the most efficient funding source available while still funding current commitments. Deputy City Manager Lam highlighted the November 2022 check-in with the Commission before work started on the 2024 budget.

Commissioner Praedel expressed appreciation for City staff sharing upcoming projects at the February 2022 City Commission retreat as it gave the Commission an opportunity to inventory where the City stood on their priorities before additional budgeting decisions were made.

Deputy City Manager Lam thanked CFO Steve Vicenzi and Grants Specialist Kerry Lyn Williams for their work on the presentation.

Commissioner
Comments

Next an opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Shelby Moss
Deputy City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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