

Captioning Transcript of Budget Committee August 18, 2022

"Hollander, Bill"

Good afternoon this is the regular meeting of the local metro council Budget Committee today is Thursday, August 18th it's 5:03 Councilman Kevin Triplett has an excuse to absence this afternoon, but, let me call the role of the people who are here Council members Piagentini, George, Armstrong, Engel, Vice chair Kramer I'm the chair Bill Hollander, councilman Arthur is here and then and we do need councilmen Fowler to have your camera on joining us virtually or council members Fowler and I think that's it presently we may have some other people, joining us in the future. We have just, as I said, I think Kevin councilman Triplett, it has excused absence. We have just 1 item of business today, it's O-242-22 an ordinance amending ordinance number 168 series 2021, relating to the 2nd, round of the American rescue plan local fiscal recovery by replacing the permanent supportive housing LAT-51 project funding in the amount of \$11,417,313 dollars with ARP home funds and adding a new project titled shelter renovations to be administered by develop Louisville.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Motion Arthur.

"Engel, Robin"

Second, Engel.

"Hollander, Bill"

It's probably moved and seconded and the ordinances before us we have 2 people here who are joining us virtually who may want to speak about this 1st I'll call on Marilyn Harris? I'll also a note that nobody is driving. All right so we're just making sure that people are on passenger side, So, Ms. Harris if you want to introduce yourself for the record and explain this ordinance.

"Harris, Marilyn"

Yes, hi, I am on the passenger side and so I am Marilyn Harris I'm the director of develop Louisville and this ordinance is before you, because, as we stated, when we received the American rescue plans, that we got some home CV plans as a CV funds as a part of that plan and we had to develop a plan to use those funds as a part of the housing work group that was formed by the mayor and Metro Council back in gosh, I don't even remember exactly when maybe Monica knows exactly when those were formed I'm going to say November, October, November of last

year, but whenever that group was formed and started doing its work, we noted that one of the things we needed to consider was shelter renovations for our emergency homeless shelters, and originally we were going to use the home funds to renovate emergency shelters thinking that was an allowable use. However, the emergency at the home CV funds cannot be used for congregate shelters meaning where people live in bunk style or dormitory units, where they don't have a unit to themselves however, ARP funds do have that ability to be used and so this is an request to literally swap out 11.4 and some change of from permanent support of housing and put those home ARP funds into the permanent support of housing and then use that 11.4 of to renovate the shelters we've undertaken a physical needs assessment of the shelters and Louisville the 5 major shelters in Louisville and we actually have a pretty specific plan on the use of this 11.4 Million dollars in those shelters to make necessary health and safety renovations so that all of those shelters are meeting code and are getting passing their inspections and getting their permits approved through codes and regs and regs and unfortunately, right now we've got a couple of shelters who have not passed that inspection and they're, working with us diligently to try and get those corrected as a part of this shelter renovation. So that is, that's the gist of what is going on with this requested swap.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you, let me just elaborate a little bit more, we at the time the 2nd, round of local ARP funds was announced, we always described the investment in housing as 100Million dollars, 89Million dollars of that was the local fiscal recovery the ARO funds that the at funds that we've been talking about, for a long time now and 11 Million dollars was his home money and the plan always was a part of the improvement was shelters and it's just a matter that we can't use the ARP moneys for that so we're just swapping the funds, essentially this does not increase the amount that we had intended always to use and approved relate to use for housing because ARP money can only be is for housing and it does not change what will be accomplished it just swaps the funding sources to allow to use the funds in a way that's allowed so that's a simple explanation I hope of what we're doing here. I will say the permanent support of housing money that we're swapping some of this money to Warren there was a request I guess it was a request for information or proposals that went out and actually closed last December I think we will be hearing some contracts in that area very, very soon for that 32 Million dollars we've been keeping tabs on how that process is going that was, of course, oversubscribed, but I think that

there have been some very good proposals that will put a lot of people and permanent support of housing and help us address some of what we're seeing on the streets and I hope that that will be announced very soon. I don't see one to anyone else. I don't see anyone in the queue to talk about. This is there I'm sorry Council Woman George.

"George, Nicole"

Thank you Chair. Thank you thank you director Harris couple of questions one will the renovations add capacity within the shelters?

"Harris, Marilyn"

Excellent question and there is one of the shelters is currently not being used and because it doesn't meet code and they're having some issues with it and so our offer to that agency is to bring that specific building up to code, so that they can add capacity the rest of them is just to bring the shelters up to capacity and there won't be necessarily an increase maybe a 1 or 2 unit, but not a significant another number but there is 1 building that will that could serve as permanent support of housing and I believe that that agency is interested in moving forward with that but I don't have a definite on that at this time.

"George, Nicole"

Okay, do you know about, we won't hold you to this, but about how many more people would be receiving services as part of the renovations to the 1 shelter?

"Harris, Marilyn"

Well, the 1 shelter will serve 12 and so that is they not only are they 12 shelter units there's 12, possibly 12 permanent support of housing units and so the rest of the shelters without these renovations they could and I don't want to scare anybody, but they could be not meet their they could they could fail inspections and not get their permits and have to be closed so these, these renovations are critical to keep our shelters open and so it's not increasing our capacity on those it's keeping them open so that we can continue to serve the people that we are currently serving.

"George, Nicole"

Okay, that's important to know. The 2nd question I have is about the plan, is there any, is there any plan to make the plan? I guess generally speaking available to the public so that we know what types of investments would be made in in the shelters?

"Harris, Marilyn"

So, we have just finished a meeting with all of the shelters over last week and the week before and we have emailed all of the physical needs assessments that were done on each of those shelters and they are out there and those agencies are making a determination at this moment on as to whether they want to move forward, I can't imagine they wouldn't want to move forward but I think until we have a firm commitment from each 1 of those shelters, we would not want to put it out there, but once we have a firm commitment that they're willing to move forward, we would then be more than happy to put that out there so that people could see what was what was going to be done.

"George, Nicole"

Okay, I think it would be important at some point for us, just to generally know what, you know, the community can expect in the way of improvements. Thank you.

"Harris, Marilyn"

You're welcome.

"Hollander, Bill"

I don't see anyone else in the queue and I would, I would echo that comment, I think that's absolutely important. I also think it's very important not just in this area, but in all the areas that we're finding with ARP that we begin to tell people how we're using that money show some successes I was extremely happy to see groundbreaking are now scheduled for the parkland and Portland libraries, and we need to need to tell people what we're doing with this money so, I would encourage you to do that as soon as we know how we can improve the shelters and of course so important that not just so that they meet code and can pass inspection but so that we can get people who are on the street into those shelters and you know, that's a matter of making them more appealing, I mean, there are reasons why people don't go to shelters and if we can lessen than those reasons that's important. And I don't see anyone else in the queue. Sorry? Councilman, George, my device wasn't working. So that's why I didn't see you so, this is an ordinance that calls for a recorded vote. If you will open the voting.

"Brown, Marissa"

Committee member with McCraney

"McCraney, Paula"

Yes.

"Brown, Marissa"

Committee member Fowler?

"Fowler, Cindi"

Yes.

"Brown, Marissa"

Committee Member Triplett? And Committee member Winkler.

"Winkler, Markus"

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Yes.

"Brown, Marissa"

You have 10 yes votes.

"Hollander, Bill"

Thank you so, the ordinance is approved and it will be on the consent calendar at our meeting, at our meeting next week, that's all of our business today and thank you all for being here without objection we're adjourned.