



Louisville Metro Government

601 W. Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Action Summary Budget Committee

Chair Bill Hollander (D-9)
Vice Chair Kevin Kramer (R-11)
Committee Member Jecorey Arthur (D-4)
Committee Member Paula McCraney (D-7)
Committee Member Cassie Chambers Armstrong (D-8)
Committee Member Cindi Fowler (D-14)
Committee Member Markus Winkler (D-17)
Committee Member Anthony Piagentini (R-19)
Committee Member Nicole George (D-21)
Committee Member Robin Engel (R-22)
Committee Member Brent Ackerson (D-26)

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

3:00 PM

Council Chambers/Virtual

THIS IS CONSIDERED A SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order

Chair Hollander called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Chair Hollander introduced the committee members and non-committee members present. A quorum was established.

Note: All committee members and non-committee members present attended virtually, except the following who attended in Chambers:

- Chair Hollander
- Vice Chair Kramer
- Council Member Piagentini
- Council Member George

Non-Committee Member(s)

- Council Member Jessica Green (D-1)
- Council Member Donna L. Purvis (D-5)
- Council President David James (D-6)
- Council Member Mark Fox (D-13)
- Council Member Scott Reed (R-16)

Support Staff

Latonya Bell, Metro Council Staff

Clerk(s)

Olivia Bennett, Assistant Clerk
Sonya Harward, Clerk

Special Discussion

1.

Chair Hollander briefly went over the \$340M budget to appropriate, permissible uses and priorities for the American Rescue Plan funds.

Congressman John Yarmuth spoke about the following:

- Gave thanks to all members of the Council.
- Gave a brief announcement regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and how the underlying theme of the ARP funds came about
- Briefly reviewed what the funds (\$388M for Metro Louisville) are to be used for and the ideas behind ARP
- The US Treasury Department will be holding a briefing Wednesday 7/14/2021 at noon to provide more current details regarding the Child Tax Credit Refund
- Briefly reviewed the Expanded Refundable Child Tax Credit to be sent out Thursday 7/15/2021 that civilians with children whom make \$112,500 or less, and up to \$150,000 as a married couple, are eligible to receive; \$300 refundable monthly payments for each child from 0-5 years of age and \$250 monthly for children from 6-17 years of age
- Approximately 146,000 children in Louisville, KY are eligible for the Child Tax Credit funds

Chair Hollander encouraged the Metro Council staff to provide brief information in their newsletter about the Child Tax Credit to help get children out of poverty.

Colin Higgins and Bruce Katz, Nowak Metro Finance Lab at Drexel University, gave a presentation and spoke about the following:

- The newer development block grant as well as COVID-19 relief
- Not used for general economic development; such as roads and bridges
- Flexibility depends on the Qualified Census Tracts ("QCT")
- Affordable housing development, housing relocation
- Educational disparities and promoting healthy childhood environments
- Child care stabilization fund
- Went over what is explicitly not allowed, such as replacing a loss in net tax revenue, general infrastructure spending, expenses not directly related to COVID-19 or its negative economic impact
- "The American Rescue Plan" not "The American Recovery Plan" which will be a bill coming in the near future

Chair Hollander asked for clarification on affordable housing allowed in the ARP fund guidelines, regarding whether ARP funds can be used to build affordable housing outside of the QCTs

- He also stated that there was \$2M dollars for allocated for broadband.

Council Member Arthur spoke to the following:

- Referenced the date of May 10th, when the U.S Treasury released the spending guidelines
- A 151 page document with the interim final rule, that has since been removed

- What the current rules are.

Council Member Armstrong spoke to the following:

- Asked for guidance to be provided for the un-housed population or homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- How would state holders work together in the process of designating the funds where they are needed
- Asked for focused efforts, guidance in ARP, flexibility to make more collaborative impact for specific organizations

Council Member Ackerson spoke. Asked for clarification on the funds

- Are the dollars one-time dollars for a two- year term
- Asked how can we maximize the dollars for the homeless population to draw the funds over more than the two-year term

Council Member Piagentini spoke to the following:

- Asked to consider the future funds coming as they are allocating funds
- Brought up issues with MSD and sewer systems, infrastructure and the brown fields that particularly plague the West End of the city
- The detrimental multi-decade impact on property value and desirability on investing in the West End neighborhoods before the issues are resolved
- Focus on issues that will have a huge impact on the city in the long term as well as small businesses

Vice Chair Kramer spoke to the item:

- Brought up the topics of Sewer infrastructure and broadband, to use ARP funds towards these two issues or to spend the funds the way it is being given per the guidelines
- Stated that there is a lot of flexibility for how the ARP funds will be allocated

Margaret Handmaker spoke. Stated that the team has had conversations with Jefferson County Public Schools ("JCPS") and will continue to collaborate with them on discreet projects they will use ARP funds for and once done with the process on identifying priority areas to focus on they would be able to narrow down the specific needs.

Margaret Handmaker and Keith Talley gave a presentation which included the following:

- Received 557 proposals
- Working with organizations specifically Build Back Better Together ("B3T")
- Broad themes or areas of priority such as, homelessness and affordable housing, economic opportunities and broadband, healthy neighborhoods, public safety, youth development and education, arts, culture and tourism, as well as environmental justice and sustainability

Council Member Arthur spoke to the following:

- Asked where the public can access a live dashboard of the issues in the city
- Brought up the website "LouiStat" but the webpage is outdated and has many errors, suggested the updating of this website and or when can they expect a public accessible portal to be available
- How to rank the themes or areas of high priority as they compare to the disparities and issues within the city
- Collaboration and individual organizations being prioritized and clarification on that and how government fits into this

- Asked for guidance on what needs to be dispersed to government affairs and gave an example from a civilian email
- Asked if there are other cities that are further along with their ARP fund spending
- Stated that we should discuss with the other cities to help to figure out what needs to be done with ARP funds

Chair Hollander spoke about the following:

- Briefly went over processes and the areas to Concentrate on
- Mentioned the 3 public hearings scheduled to hear from the public where the ARP funds should be spent
- Reviewing the Council website for comments from the public to then come up with a consensus on priority themes and then work on proposals

Vice Chair Kramer spoke to the following:

- Housing
- Mental illness
- Something that drives homelessness and where it stems from relating to the Healthy Neighborhood theme
- Stated the themes of the high priority areas list is very broad and not definitive

Council Member McCraney spoke to the following:

- Stated that there needs to be a few projects to focus on and determine from there the needs of people or organizations that to make a major impact and to encourage the Council to have a specific plan

Council Member Fox spoke; stated that this money needs to be spent with all of Louisville in mind because it affects everyone, not any particular area.

Council Member Ackerson spoke to the following:

- Stated that MSD and The Water Company are their own taxing entities
- They regularly raise their rates
- Spending money on an entity that has their own taxing authority gives great causes for concern because the rates should decrease not increase to help a priority area
- Suggested to pick three topics and to delegate \$100M towards each organization that is experienced then have \$88M dollars left over to delegate towards other things
- Target the funds specifically

Adjournment

Without objection, Chair Hollander adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.