

MINUTES OF THE LACEY CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

JUNE 18, 2020

7:00 P.M. – 8:08 P.M.

REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: MAYOR RYDER, DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT, COUNCILMEMBERS
GREENSTEIN, STEADMAN, COX, KUNKEL, MILLER

STAFF PRESENT: S. SPENCE, J. BURBIDGE, S. EGGER, D. SCHNEIDER,
R. ARMADA, R. WALK, T. WOO, P. EDMONDS

ACTION: APPROVE THE WORKSESSION AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBER
GREENSTEIN AND DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT

CARES ACT FUNDING

STAFF: SCOTT SPENCE, CITY MANAGER

RICK WALK, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

ACTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT AND
COUNCILMEMBER STEADMAN TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO
SIGN THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CONTRACT
TO RECEIVE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBER
GREENSTEIN AND DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT TO (1) SEEK CARES ACT
FUNDING REIMBURSEMENT FOR FUNDS PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO EDC
(\$70,000) AND UNITED WAY (\$50,000); (2) FUND \$10,000 TO
HOMELESS BACKPACKS; AND (3) SPLIT THE REMAINING BALANCE OF
\$408,100 50/50 BETWEEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SOCIAL
SERVICES IN AMOUNTS AGREED UPON AT A FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING.

The U.S. Treasury, under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Action (CARES Act), distributed federal stimulus funding to the States. On April 27, 2020, Governor Inslee awarded \$300 million of the CARES Act funds to local governments. The amount the City of Lacey received under this reimbursable grant program totals \$1,538,100.

These funds may only be used for costs incurred by local governments in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency during the period March 1, 2020, thru October 31, 2020. Six categories eligible for Coronavirus Relief Funds include:

1. Medical expenses.
2. Public Health Expenses.
3. Payroll Expenses.
4. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures.
5. Expenses associated with the provision of economic support.
6. Any other COVID-19 related expenses.

In order to receive the funds from Department of Commerce, the City of Lacey will need to enter into an interagency agreement. As the City incurs expenses related to COVID-19, within the above-described cost categories, requests for reimbursement can be submitted to the State. Reimbursement requests must meet the following:

1. The expense is connected to COVID-19 emergency.
2. The expense is “necessary.”
3. The expense is not filling a short fall in government revenues.
4. The expense is not funded thru another budget line item, allotment or allocation, as of March 27, 2020.
5. The expense would not exist without COVID-19, or would be for a “substantially different purpose.”
6. The City must review the expense and determine the expenditure is addressing an immediate impact.

After the contract is signed, the City will immediately submit a reimbursement request for the \$1 million used for the Small Business Stabilization Grant Program. The Lacey grant program provided immediate relief and support to small business impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and would meet the above criteria.

To date, the City received the following funding requests:

- Homeless Backpack – \$10,000
- United Way – minimum of \$250,000
- Thurston Strong – 25% of total funds (\$1,538,100) = \$384,525

For the remaining Lacey grant allocation of \$538,100, Council agreed to seek reimbursement for funds granted to the Thurston Economic Development Council for

\$70,000 and United Way of Thursday Council for \$50,000, and fund 10,000 to Homeless Backpacks.

Council also agreed to split the remaining balance of \$408,100 50/50 for economic recovery and social services. However, prior to funding, Council requested additional information on program plans.

Council directed staff to request fully developed program plans from the social service and economic recovery agencies, and will consider the funding allocation at a future Council meeting.

COMMUNITY BASED COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

STAFF: SCOTT SPENCE, CITY MANAGER
RICK WALK, CIVIL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

The application deadline for the 30 member Community Based Committee on Homelessness is June 22, 2020. Staff will distribute applications to Council on June 23 for review and consideration at a Worksession on June 25 following the Council meeting.

Council will select the first 16 by majority vote, which will include six representatives from organizations such as North Thurston Public Schools, faith-based community, and a non-profit agency. Each Councilmember will then have the opportunity to select two applicants.

There was Council consensus to consider a future budget amendment for the project facilitator.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO CITY FACILITIES

STAFF: SCOTT SPENCE, CITY MANAGER
ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Thurston County has applied for Phase 3 to the Governor's phased program. Once in Phase 3, social gatherings can occur with 50 people or less, and government offices may open to the public.

Staff prepared a “Safe Start” plan, which includes safety measures already implemented as well as specific and clear direction for all City employees and the public to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Once in Phase 3, City facilities will begin to open to the public in a staged manner, with a variety of services offered to the public by appointment only.

At the request of Mayor Ryder, Council will discuss changing Council meeting times at the June 25 Council meeting.