

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Study Session
October 25, 2021**

A Study session of the Warrensburg City Council was held on Monday, October 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at 200 S. Holden and via Zoom, with Mayor Scott Holmberg presiding. Roll was called as follows, Present were: Kushner, Lund, Bentley, Holmberg. Absent: Brooks.

The adoption of the agenda was considered. Kushner moved to approve the agenda. Yes: Kushner, Lund, Bentley, Holmberg. Absent: Brooks. No: none.

City Manager Danielle Dulin presented a discussion on the American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA). She stated the City of Warrensburg was initially supposed to receive \$3.76 million but will actually receive \$4.12 million. Dulin stated this money must be used to support public health expenditures, address negative economic impacts caused by public health emergency, replace lost public sector revenue, provide premium pay for essential workers, and invest in water, stormwater, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Dulin stated the City cannot demonstrate a loss of revenue due to Covid pandemic.

Dulin reviewed the proposed projects City staff has put together to utilize the ARPA funds.

Support Public Health

She stated upgrading the phone system, along with a 1-year subscription to Zoom would allow staff to maintain social distancing if needed in the future. Dulin stated upgrading Police Department vehicles and squad room with personal computers and docking stations would allow officers to do reports remotely and not always in the squad room.

Dulin explained the next option is to upgrade the Incode system being used. She said this is something that needs to be done, but it may not fall under the ARPA requirements to use the funds.

Dulin said the next upgrade to consider is the radio system as the county-wide system will be obsolete in about 7-8 years. She stated this is a very expensive upgrade. Dulin mentioned the important part of this is to not get too far ahead of our community partners.

Address Negative Economic Impact

Dulin said staff is considering a code compliance grant program for businesses. She said this would help businesses bring their building up to code with possible sprinkler systems, or ADA requirements.

Dulin explained tourism grants would also help restaurants and hotels who suffered the most during the pandemic.

Replace Lost Revenue

Dulin explained that while the City cannot demonstrate a loss of revenue, the Parks Department can: unable to hold sports, paused recreation league, paused monthly memberships. She said if eligible, a new ADA restroom at Cave Hollow Park would be a project to consider.

Invest in Water, Wastewater, and Infrastructure

Dulin explained a project at both wastewater treatment plants would be to upgrade the blowers. She said the City would also like to retire the Enterprise lift station. She stated it continually needs to be repaired. Dulin said a significant stormwater project would also be a great opportunity to improve the city. Dulin stated the Department of Natural Resources(DNR) sent out a survey as they have funds to support projects. She said city staff will be working with DNR to see if any of the wastewater projects could be funded partially, or in whole, by DNR.

Dulin mentioned ARPA funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

Mayor Holmberg commented the Code Compliance is important. He said the ADA restroom at Cave Hollow Park needs to exceed ADA requirements.

Councilmen Kushner asked Police Chief Rich Lockhart if the current radio system is stable. Lockhart stated it is stable. He stated there will be an upcoming drill that will be a good test.

City Manager Danielle Dulin presented a discussion on the Solid Waste Services. She reviewed current codes regarding solid waste. She reviewed the current role of the City regarding solid waste management. Dulin stated there was a recent transition of Heartland Waste being bought by Republic Services.

Dulin stated the City is currently operating under a solid waste plan adopted in 1993. She said a study was done in 2005, but nothing was adopted or changed from those recommendations. Dulin said the City has three options: 1. Do nothing. Allow current and new solid waste companies to provide the service. 2. The City could implement a contract with a certain company. 3. The City could start its own trash utility.


Dulin explained the city-wide contract that was proposed in 2005 had pros and cons listed from the public and city council. She said Missouri law requires a 2-year grace period before a solid waste contract can be implemented. Dulin stated the billing portion could be added to the sewer bills, but a solid waste coordinator would most likely need to be hired to handle the contract. She stated staff's recommendation at this time would be to update the solid waste study and adopt a new solid waste plan before making any decisions related to solid waste management. Councilmen Tarl Bentley stated he thinks we should move forward and adopt a new solid waste plan and have a contingency plan if Republic is not able to continue to provide service.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:


Carey L. West, Deputy City Clerk




Scott Holmberg, Mayor