



**EXCity of McMinnville
Planning Department**
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MINUTES

August 18, 2021
McMinnville Economic Vitality Leadership Council
Regular Meeting

4:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
McMinnville, Oregon

Members Present: Robert Banagay, Carson Benner, Ellen Brittan, Dani Chisholm, Jodi Christensen, John Deitz, Mike Morris, Deven Paolo, Steve Patterson,

Members Absent: Chris Chenoweth, Walt Gowell, Heather Miller, Gerardo Ochoa, and Ty Rollins

Staff Present: Jeff Towery, Heather Richards, Heather Hadley-Blank, Jeff Knapp, Gioia Goodrum, Dave Rucklos

Others Present Scott Hill – Mayor

1. Call to Order

Chair Benner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Citizen Comments

None

3. Discussion

- ARPA Funds Recommendation

Jeff Knapp, Visit McMinnville Executive Director, said there had been discussions regarding using ARPA funds for EVLC's top two priorities, the Third Street Streetscape Plan and McMinnville Innovation Center. He shared the letter that had been drafted to the Council requesting the allocation of the funds for these projects. The request was \$500,000 for the Third Street project and \$250,000 for the Innovation Center, a total of \$750,000.

Councilor Christensen said without these plans, accessing other funds for the projects would be impossible.

Chair Benner thought the timing was gratuitous to get them into the real funding coming down the road. He asked if the committee agreed to put their names on the letter, if

members could attend the City Council meeting to show support, and if members could help petition City Councilors in advance of the meeting.

Councilor Patterson was not in favor of signing. He asked who was responsible for the sidewalks. Planning Director Richards said the City was responsible for downtown sidewalks. Nothing had been decided on what was included in the project yet.

Councilor Patterson thought the property and store owners that would benefit from the project should contribute as well.

Councilor Christensen said they were not at that point yet. These investments would allow initial planning and feasibility that would get them to those types of decisions and funding options.

Councilor Patterson wanted to make sure there was a dialogue and consideration for property owners to participate in the cost through the process of developing the project.

Chair Benner said they would change the signature of the letter to be from the EVLC as a whole instead of individual names.

Councilor Patterson asked if they should include how the request aligned with the principles for the ARPA funds. He did not think the letter addressed why it fit. City Manager Towery agreed if they made the case that it was consistent with these principles that were approved by the City Council and Budget Committee it would be a stronger recommendation.

Mr. Knapp reviewed the criteria for the ARPA funds.

Mayor Hill appreciated this committee's proactivity to bring a recommendation to the City Council.

Councilor Banagay asked about the City carrying costs for the Innovation Center. City Manager Towery said since this was one time money, they wanted to focus the expenditures on one time investments and not start a program that required ongoing costs.

Planning Director Richards explained what the feasibility analysis would include for the Innovation Center.

Councilor Brittan moved to approve the ARPA Funds recommendation letter as amended and to forward it to the City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Christensen and passed 8-1 with Councilor Patterson opposed.

Mr. Knapp would put together a PowerPoint presentation for the Council's August 24 meeting.

City Manager Towery suggested including how the projects met the guiding principles in the presentation.

Councilors Benner, Paolo, and Banagay and Dave Rucklos would be at the meeting to make the presentation.

Councilor Morris asked if there were other organizations that would be bringing ideas forward. Mayor Hill said there were four pages of other project ideas, about 35-40 possible programs. City Manager Towery said the Council wanted to use the Budget Committee as the primary public engagement tool and they had not gone out to the public for suggestions. He thought the current list would be more than the amount of money they would receive.

Chair Benner asked how much ARPA money the City would receive. City Manager Towery said they were expecting about \$7.8 million.

Chair Benner asked if the Budget Committee was supplying a recommendation for how the funds were spent. City Manager Tower said it would be the Council's decision and the Budget Committee would be making recommendations. They were thinking about this as a longer term list of priorities and some of the projects might be suitable for different funding. He thought the project list would evolve and there might be something that popped up two years from now that they weren't thinking about today.

4. Council Member Comments

None

5. Staff Comments

None

6. Rumor Mill

None

7. Adjournment

Chair Benner adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.