

Minutes of Workshop held January 25, 2021

Workshop held with the following: Mayor Ruben Gonzalez; Aldermen Lupe Castro, Sam Cortez, Charles Cate and Alderwoman Laura Reyna (on phone); City Secretary Josie Campa, Director of Public Works James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; Police Officer David Lopez; Animal Control Director Santiago Morantez.

Visitor: Simon Garcia.

Mayor Gonzalez opened the workshop at 8:03 p.m. and announced the purpose of the workshop was to discuss the CRF funds the city will be receiving soon and how to distribute these funds.

City Secretary Josie Campa gave Council copies of information concerning the TDEM Cares Act funds the city should receive very soon. She explained each of the info sheets to Council.

Mayor Gonzalez told Council that 25% of this funding is for businesses. The City Secretary told Council that because the funds will be received by using the Public Safety payroll, this requirement does not have to be met.

Mayor Gonzalez asked Council members for their thoughts for distributing these funds.

Alderwoman Reyna recommended the 25% be split between the small businesses and schools, as the committee had recommended.

Matt Dear from the Lytle Fire Department told Council that if the city is going to give these funds then he is requesting the Fire Department be given money for a cardiac monitor which cost about \$32,000.00.

The Council discussed setting up guidelines for businesses to get the CRF funds from the city.

Mayor Gonzalez asked Council members for their recommendations for distributing the CRF funds.

Alderwoman Reyna gave her recommendation to the Mayor. She proposed giving 30% to small businesses and the school; 10% for outstanding utility bills; and 60% for other expenses such as the Fire Departments' request and other Covid-related items.

Alderman Cate talked to Council about using the money to benefit the residences such as the money for having an engineering study for sidewalks around town. Mr. Cate talked about how dangerous it is for kids to walk to school without sidewalks.

Alderman Castro told Council he feels the school should use their emergency funds for the pandemic's added expenses and give the city monies to the small businesses and the Fire Department.

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Alderman Cortez agreed with Alderman Castro's idea.

Mayor Gonzalez told Council that the city needs to help the school and that the counties have already helped Lytle I.S.D.

Council members agreed that the Fire Department should get the cardiac machine they requested.

Alderman Cate told Council he feels the school should be left out of this and that we need to find out how much the school is getting from other grant funds.

After more discussion, the Mayor asked Council members to give this item some more thought and then criteria will be set up for distribution of money. He then adjourned the workshop at 9:05 p.m.