

Minutes of Workshop held February 25, 2021

Workshop with the following present: Mayor Ruben Gonzalez; Aldermen Jerry Stone, Sam Cortez, Laura Reyna; City Secretary Josie Campa; Public Works Director James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; City Attorney Tom Cate. Alderman Charles Cate attended via zoom. Alderman Castro was absent.

Visitors: Simon Garcia, Mark Lovelace, Cumorah Eldredge, Franklin Wanjura, Jr.

Mayor Gonzalez opened the workshop at 6:38 p.m. and announced the purpose for the workshop, and asked if anyone in attendance had any comments.

Mark Lovelace, Lytle Chamber President told Council his philosophy for the infrastructure of a city was the city, school and businesses and that all three have to communicate and work with each other.

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she had included a work sheet with the amount of funds the city will receive and Alderwoman Reyna's proposal. She told them she had also listed other items that have been mentioned for this funding. The City Secretary told Council she had also attached a copy of a letter sent by the school's superintendent.

Cumorah Eldredge thanked Council for including the school in the discussion for distributing the CRF funds. She told Council the State has provided the school with testing kits for its employees and have assisted with several other things. She said PPE is what is needed such as masks, gowns and custodian suits and that any money the school receives from the city will go toward PPE.

Franklin Wanjura, Jr. told Council that what worries him the most these days is the water well situation and asked if the city could use the money for getting the new well on-line.

Alderman Charles Cate told Council he is in favor of this money going toward getting the well completed.

Alderman Stone told Council he wants to hold onto the money until the well is completed.

Alderman Cortez said Council needs to worry about the well now.

Simon Garcia told Council that seventeen (17) small businesses went out of business last year for various reasons.

Mayor Gonzalez told Council he feels the well is important but it is also important to help others, businesses and school district.

The Council talked about funding for the well and the added expenses for engineering and drilling to unblock the well.

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Mayor Gonzalez also reminded Council of the request from the Fire Department for a heart monitor (\$32,000.00) and the new request from the Police Department for new tablets for the police vehicles (\$15,570.00).

Alderman Reyna asked about applying for grants and the City Secretary told Council that the city does not qualify for grants as long as it is behind with audits.

Council then discussed different options for distributing the CRF funds.

Grants and loans for small and micro businesses were also discussed. Criteria for grants for small businesses was also discussed and it was agreed Council would have to establish the criteria for this program.

Mr. Lovelace was asked if 30% of the funds would even make a difference for the businesses and he said it would and he has already drawn up an application. He told Council there are no more than twenty (20) small businesses that would apply for a grant.

Alderman Cortez told Council he feels Council should help the small businesses and the school a bit.

Alderman Reyna told Council she feels there will be more funding coming to the city from other relief packages.

Mayor Gonzalez told Council he wants them to think about a committee for considering small businesses if Council designates money for businesses, as well as guidelines for the applications.

Alderman Cate again told Council he would like to see 100% of this money to go toward the well.

The workshop was closed at 8:05 p.m.