

**Special Called Meeting
October 14, 2021**

The City of Hull Mayor and Council met via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on October 14, 2021, in a special called meeting to discuss the ARPA Funding. Proper notice was posted and provided to the local newspaper. Those in attendance were the Clerk, Mayor Walton, Council members Walton, Gantt, Koepnick and Barber. Also present was attorney Nefetara Clark.

Mayor Walton impressed upon council members that it was important that everyone understood the application process for those businesses, private citizens and non-profit entities wishing to apply for funds from the City through ARPA. Mayor Walton inquired of council if everyone had taken the opportunity to review the draft of the two applications, one for private citizens and one for non-profits, that attorney Clark had prepared. Everyone indicated that they had reviewed and both applications appeared well thought out and in order. Council member Gantt did request that the applications be clear that the application(s) is for those within the "City Limits" of Hull and just not "City of Hull". Attorney Clark indicated she would make that revision. Attorney Clark had also prepared the verification to be attached to all applications including the one previously approved at the last regular meeting for businesses.

Mayor Walton advised that the uses of the ARPA funds was still an ongoing process and being updated and again encouraged council members to review and become familiar with the Act.

There was further discussion about extending and/or eliminating the deadline to apply for funds. Mayor Walton pointed out that we would have until 2024 to use the funds and his recommendation is that the funds be distributed on a first come, first serve basis until such time as the funds are exhausted. Motion was made by Marilyn Walton, seconded by Donna Gantt and approved unanimously that we accept Mayor Walton's recommendation that the funds be distributed on a first come, first serve basis until the funds are exhausted. In this regard Attorney Clark advised that the two disbursements, one to the Sheriff's Department, and the other to the First Department once the City is provided with a receipt, could go forward. The Application from the Chevron could be considered once the proper affidavit was attached and HeavenBound Ministries would need to re-apply using the correct form.

Mayor Walton requested that council allow him to sign off on any application that was presented once the Clerk had reviewed to verify that the application was in compliance. This would avoid the need to have a special meeting to review and approve and/or a delay in funds being disbursed. Council members Barber, Gantt and Koepnick indicated that they would prefer that the applications be presented to the council for review and approval before any funds were paid. Council member Walton expressed her concern about a delay in the event of an emergency situation. Mayor Walton again asked council to allow him to sign off on the applications once verified by the Clerk so that we would not have a delay and/or require numerous special called meetings. Council member Walton made a motion to allow Mayor Walton to approve the applications for payment once verified by the Clerk. This motion died for lack of a second.

After further discussion the Clerk made a suggestion that Mayor Walton be allowed to approve applications with a monetary cap and then all other applications be presented to council either at a regular meeting or special called meeting if necessary. This would allow the Mayor once the Clerk verified the application to assist those applicants in an emergency type situation. Mayor Walton inquired of attorney Clark her thoughts on the matter and Attorney Clark concurred with the Clerk's suggestion. The Clerk advised that she could keep the council apprised of the applications via e-mail. Mayor Walton advised that he would like to be permitted to approve applications up to \$500.00 without council approval. Council member Gantt then posed the question as to what would prevent someone from making multiple applications of less than \$500.00 that would not go before the council. After further discussion it was the consensus of the council that an individual could request up to \$500.00 in one or more applications but anything over a cumulative total of \$500.00 from the same person would have to come before the council. Council member Gantt then made a motion which was seconded by Marilyn Walton that Mayor Walton be allowed to approve up to \$500.00 for payment without council approval after the application had been verified by the Clerk and this could be a one time payment or a cumulative payment up to \$500.00. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was then made by Donna Gantt and seconded by Brian Kopenick that the draft applications prepared by Attorney Clark be approved after the revision to say "City Limits" of Hull. Motion passed unanimously.

There being nothing further the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou
City Clerk