

Star City Strong Recovery Fund Task Force
Public Hearing
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020

Pursuant to Section 4.0-01(g), Chapter 1283, Virginia Acts of Assembly (2020 Session), this meeting shall be conducted by electronic communication means without the presence of a quorum physically present in one location. The public will have access to observe this meeting by contacting the City Clerk at (540)853-2541 or clerk@roanokeva.gov by Wednesday July 1, 2020, at 9:00 am. The City Clerk will provide individuals with the information necessary to access this meeting. A recording of this meeting will be posted by the City and the link will be at the pages of the City Manager and the City Clerk.

1. Roll Call

The Mayor called the meeting to order and 7:03 pm and roll was called. The following members were in attendance:

- Mayor Lea
- Vice-Mayor Cobb
- City Manager Cowell
- Pamela Smith
- Mignon Chubb-Hale
- Tommy Page
- Jan Keister
- Andrea Micklem
- Bethany Lackey
- Antonio Segovia
- Brian Wells
- Chris Bryant
- Carol Rowlett
- Jerel Rhodes
- Landon Howard
- Pete Eshelman
- Abby Hamilton
- Shaleen Powell
- Carole Tarrant
- Elda Stanco-Downey
- Brenda Hale
- Debbie Brown
- Kat Pascal
- Troy Cook
- Chris Bryant
- Ellen Stick

- Rachel Hopkins
- Joyce Waugh
- James Smith
- Christian Bryant

Others in Attendance:

- City Attorney Callaghan
- Tiffany Bradbury
- Angie O'Brien
- Amelia Merchant

2. Overview of the Objective of the Recovery Fund, the Role of the Task Force and the Process

The Mayor requested the City Manager provide an overview of the Recovery Fund, the role of the Task Force and the process to date. City Manager Cowell provided the overview.

3. Overview of Identified Initiatives and Projects and Preliminary Prioritization

The Mayor requested the City Manager provide an overview of the initiatives and projects and preliminary prioritization of these by the Task Force thus far. City Manager Cowell provided the overview.

4. Public Hearing

The Mayor opened the public hearing and requested the City Secretary to introduce the speakers. Each speaker was provided 3 minutes to offer their comments.

The first speaker was Mike McEvoy with the Western Virginia Water Authority who spoke in favor of funding being made available to assist residents who have become delinquent in their utility bills. He provided related data and financial needs (approx. \$90,000)

The second speaker was Fern Henley who spoke in support of more tree planting in the community

The third speaker was Laura Mason who spoke in support of funding for hairstylists and Gig workers. She also expressed concerns about the level of unemployment in the community, the need for additional PPE for small businesses and future shutdowns as the virus continues.

The fourth speaker was Antinette Beane who spoke of the need for a community center in the NW that could support additional youth activities and also of the need to support current and additional business activity along Melrose Avenue.

The fifth speaker was Janine Underwood who spoke in support of funding for local health clinics and their programming, especially dental services.

The Mayor closed the public hearing

5. Next Steps/Council Meeting July 20

City Manager Cowell indicated he would reach out to those that had signed up to speak but were unable to join in and see if they had any further comments. The Task Force was also reminded of the meeting on Wednesday (July 15) and the Council meeting on July 20

6. Adjourn

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm