

Regular Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
August 14, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall West Meeting Room 1, 131 North Main Street Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Caggiano, David Maikowski, Thomas O'Brien, John Smith, Susan Sadecki, and Glenn Heiser.

Morgan Urgo, Mickey Goldwasser, Howard Schmelder attended via Zoom.

Absent: Michael Dumas, Katie D'Agostino, John Leone, David Preleski and Mark Peterson
Also present: Robin Manuele, Roger Rousseau and Justin Malley

1. Call to Order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of minutes of Regular Meeting – June 12, 2023

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner O'Brien "To approve the regular minutes from June 12, 2023" Motion approved.

4. Discussion with UHY Advisors

Martha provided updates on the subrecipients and beneficiaries highlighting projects that have not started or received a draw down yet.

- BARC is waiting on securing other funding
- Bristol Hospital is a timing issue as they need to close all eight operating rooms to start the project
- Environmental Learning Center has secured a contractor for the HVAC project
- Firefly has drawn down half their funding but is on hold due to sale of business
- Miller Foods is still looking for space
- Movia has recently reconciled their advance but no further advances due to their litigation
- Family Center has submitted a draw but requested additional information

Commissioner Goldwasser stated Firefly and Movia are the two red flags and questioned if Firefly is not sold, and if Movia is bogged down in the court. The Task Force should take back remainder of the funds. Martha does not see any other red flags.

Commissioner Heiser questioned how the sale of Firefly impacts their funds. Martha discussed Firefly in that while operating as a business the Task Force gave them funds for an HVAC project with the intent of the funds which were used by the business. Any remaining funds are no longer available, and the asset remains with the building. If the business does sell, the award would need to

be transferred to the new owners for the original intent. However, if someone comes in and opens it for another business, they will not be able to use the remaining funds as it will not operate as a brewery. The \$7,500 would come back to the City. The remaining \$7,500 was used for other renovations, which were described in their original application. In general, when improvements are made to a leased space, the landlord understands that it is a semi-permanent improvement and the lease is reviewed. However, no one can predict that a business will suddenly close. Commissioner Goldwasser questioned what constitutes the entity. Justin explained if the ownership has plans to open as a brewery, they would need to talk to this group about their business model to make a decision.

5. To review deadline of January 2024 for all subrecipients and beneficiaries

Martha explained this deadline would be for all subrecipients and beneficiaries for all projects including the Building Bristol program. All subrecipients and beneficiaries must have submitted one or more reimbursements of their ARPA award by January 30, 2024. Those awardees who have not implemented their project and incurred expenses by this date, will be terminated. Commissioner Maikowski stated the precedent was set with BARC, and should be applied to all projects.

Commissioner OBrien seconded by Commissioner Smith "All drawdowns must be started by January 30, 2024 or the money will be rescinded." Motion approved.

Commissioner Heiser questioned if any projects would not be completed by December 2026. Roger Rousseau reviewed the City projects, and it seems they all can be started by then.

6. Building Bristol Grant Program Update

a. To rescind \$192,500 of the Building Bristol appropriation

Martha reviewed the Building Bristol tracker and discussed the projects. There are still four which have not made any contact with the City or UHY. She also noted Bristol Shell didn't want to buy the tanks for their project until 2026 which is beyond the January 2024 deadline.

These companies had been contacted monthly since January, Nikki Real Estate, Ovams Properties, T Salon, and Tommy's Place. It is suggested the grants be rescinded. Martha suggested a letter from the Mayor be sent explaining that due to lack of communication the City is redacting the award.

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner O'Brien "To rescind \$192,500 of the Building Bristol appropriation." Motion approved.

7. Subcommittee Updates

Commissioner Sadecki gave an update on the Non-Profit subcommittee which met on August 9, of the 17 projects, six have been completed and have closed out their awards.

The City and Business subcommittee have not met. Mayor Caggiano asked John to reach out to West Cemetery/Barnes Chapel to follow up with their project.

8. Any other business

The ARPA Task Force will be receiving the Community Impact Award from United Way which the event is October 17 at the DoubleTree. The Task Force is invited to attend.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion seconded by Commissioner Maikowski "to adjourn" at 4:50 p.m. Motion approved.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary