



## AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

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**PREPARED BY:** Bruce Oakley

**DEPARTMENT:** Executive

**MEETING:** Town Council – 11/9/2021

**SUBJECT:** American Rescue Funds

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The American Rescue Plan allows Cities and Towns to pay employees who are essential to the operation of the organization and who bore health risks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every employee in the Town of Carolina beach performed duties that at some point increased their risk of exposure to the public and to fellow employees. If Council approves, this proposal will provide them a one-time premium payment.

The proposed payment from the American Rescue Funds will pay those workers whose job duties put them at a higher level of risk, such as first responders, utility workers, and environmental workers a total of \$1500. It will pay those employees who were required to be in the office every day a total of \$1000 and those who were able to work from home occasionally or had a reduced risk a total of \$500.

The workers who did occasionally worked from home or had a reduced risk were essential to the operation of the town and were only allowed to work from home for a brief period during our State of Emergency. The proposed reduced pay for these employees is in keeping with the requirements of the American Rescue Plan, but out of fairness and for employee morale, I am requesting that we pay these employees an additional \$500 out of the town's general fund.

The proposed breakdown of the payments would be as follows:

\$121,480 – American Rescue Plan

\$5500 – General Fund

### **ACTION REQUESTED:**

Motion to approve \$121,480 of the American Rescue Plan funds for premium pay in addition to \$5,500 from the general fund to cover the remainder.