

# COBURG CITY COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORTS

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## TOPIC: American Recovery Funds

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Meeting Date: September 14, 2021

Staff Contact: Anne Heath

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### REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Information Only

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### CITY COUNCIL GOAL

Responsible Fiscal Stewardship

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### BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan. The Plan, also referred to as the Covid-19 Stimulus Package was a 1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill intended to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession. Specifically, the bill provides funding for a wide range of programs directed at a state, local and private employment level. One important part of the bill provides that funds be directly issued to local government agencies in every state.

On June 24, 2021, the final guidance was released for State and local governments. This final guidance provided a very focused framework in which funds can be spent. These categories are very differently titled but are similar in nature to the Governors 10-point plan released earlier in the year.

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### EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES (Copy attached of expanded table)

1. Public Health
  2. Negative Economic Impacts
  3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
  4. Premium Pay
  5. Infrastructure
  6. Revenue Replacement
  7. Administrative – Expenses and Transferable Funds
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## **USES THAT MEET THE GOALS AND WORKPLAN OF THE CITY**

A review of the current work plan of the City finds the following projects that could be considered for these funds:

- Development of Broadband Plan, Broadband Infrastructure
- Water Master Project
- Replacement of Sewer Tanks
- Design of Public Works Shop (this is still a bit hazy as to whether it would qualify)
- Support Community Economic Development
- Continue to support businesses through Covid-19 recovery
- Planning and implementation of Bike Kiosk, and citizens and visitors rest and relaxation areas in town.
- Improve Citizen Communications – Equipment for virtual meetings installed in Council Chamber, possible Civic Ready Platform which allows for push out of information to citizens by opt in texts and emails.

Some projects that have been under discussion that could be funded are Main Street Projects that build on Economic Development and Recovery of the Community. Providing some funding to this would encourage these projects and the volunteers working on them. These could include:

- Community Art
- Design and Implementation of a downtown plaza with outdoor seating
- Street Design that encourages safe downtown walking and biking.
- Marketing for the downtown businesses
- Possible Upgrades to IOOF

City Council does not need to decide on one project to fund. There could be multiple projects funded that would make a big difference to the community as a whole.

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## **BUDGET**

The City received the first installment of these funds on August 31, 2021 in the amount of \$129,864. These funds have been placed in savings. This is the first installment. We will receive the second installment in the late spring of 2022 for the same amount. This is approximately \$20,000 more than initially projected as we had updated population figures released by Portland State. The funds need to be spent by December 31, 2024.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Ultimately, it will be up to the City Council to decide the most urgent and useful application of these funds. Council should discuss and share with staff any further information that they might need in order to make a decision.

These funds are budgeted in the General Fund at this time and they may be moved to appropriate funds when the Council makes their decision as to where they wish the funds to be utilized

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. American Recovery – Expenditure Categories
- B. Allocations to Cities in Oregon

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## **Reviewed Through**

**Tim Gaines, Finance Director**  
**Sammy Egbert, City Recorder**