

COBURG CITY COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORTS



TOPIC: American Rescue Plan

Meeting Date: May 11, 2021

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REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Staff direction

CITY COUNCIL GOAL

Responsible Fiscal Stewardship

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 industry. One important part of the bill provides that funds be directly issued to local government agencies in every state.

It has been determined that Coburg will received approximately \$240,000. \$120,000 will be received in the late spring or early summer of 2021, with the remainder tentatively planned for April, 2022.

It has been recommended that municipalities begin the discussion of how these funds will be spent. In April the staff brought a report to City Council with a list of recommended projects for the City Council to Consider. The City Council asked for a rating system and more information on recommended projects for funding. Staff provided Council a rating system. Staff received feedback from the Mayor and four City Councilors.

COBURG ECONOMIC NEEDS

The categories that the Council were asked to rate are as follows:

1. Broadband
2. Business Assistance Funding
3. Chamber Assistance
4. Development Code Update
5. Emergency Fuel Tank Installation

6. Innovative Housing
 7. Mainstreets Projects
 8. Public Works Shop
 9. Solar Panels on City Hall
 10. Street Engineering for Shovel Ready Projects
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RATED PROJECTS

The projects were rated as follows:

1. Street Engineering for Shovel Ready Projects
2. Chamber Assistance
3. Development Code Update
4. Public Works Shop – Engineering/Match
5. Solar Panels for City Hall
6. Emergency Fuel Tank Installation
7. Mainstreets Programs
8. Broadband
9. Business Assistance
10. Innovative Housing

The obvious conclusion is a priority on street projects, supporting the Chamber, the Public Works Shop, and then resilience for the City.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Budget all funds into the General Fund for 2022 and disburse the funds to projects as staffing levels allow for a project to be started
 2. Disburse Funds to the Chamber in early July to ensure that they have the funds to cover the festivals and events in the summer and fall of 2021. Funds to be disbursed should be \$10,000 - \$15,000. Council were somewhat split on this.
 3. Seek other funding that is being released almost daily. There may be projects above that can be covered in other funding opportunities being released. It may be prudent to wait until the federal government releases all funding opportunities before earmarking projects for funding
 4. Get through the budget season and end of the fiscal year to see what transpires on a national level prior to making final decisions as to how funds will be spent.
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CONCLUSION

The Council does not need to rush to make final decisions regarding the majority of dollars being spent. Assisting the Chamber is really the only time sensitive item listed. Staff are

planning for some grant applications that could cover the costs of some of the items listed above which would make it possible to shift dollars to other projects.
