



MINUTES
CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
ARPA (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT)
March 9, 2022
124 S Lefevre St, Medical Lake, WA
7:00 pm

NOTE: This is not a verbatim transcript. These Minutes contain only a summary of the discussion. A recording is on file and available from City Hall upon request.

Council Members Present:	Chad Pritchard Heather Starr Don Kennedy Dawn Olmstead Tony Harbolt (via Zoom) Art Kulibert (via Zoom) Bob Maxwell (via Zoom)	Staff Present:	Kendel Froese, City Attorney Scott Duncan, Public Works/Maintenance Steve Cooper, Wastewater Supervisor Marilyn Eaker, Clerk/Cashier Karin Morris, Administrative Assistant
		Special Guest:	Jeff McMorris, Spokane County Community Engagement and Public Policy Adviser

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

Mayor Terri Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- A. Additions to the Agenda – none
- B. Excused Absence(s) – none

2. Discussion Regarding ARPA Funding

Jeff McMorris, Spokane County Community Engagement and Public Policy Adviser gave an informative PowerPoint presentation and provided handouts related the CARES/ARPA funding differences and allowed uses for the money. The City of Medical Lake received \$1,200,000 and the first report is due in April 2022. Mr. McMorris noted this money must be appropriated by the end of 2024, although we have until end of 2026 to complete the spending. Any unused money by January 1, 2027, must be returned to the Federal Government. Mr. McMorris informed the council that the entire ARPA money could be put into the city's general fund because the award was less than \$10 Million. He also informed council they would have to pass a resolution stating where and how the funds will be used.

Mayor Cooper mentioned the City has spent \$190,200. Medical Lake Outreach received \$50,000 in September 2021 and another \$50,000 grant in February 2022 for community utility bills and rents. Big Sky Industrial received \$15,200 for sewer lift gate debris removal, and \$75,000 to the Medical Lake Food Bank for a capital improvement project. \$1 Million is available. Mayor Cooper followed with a PowerPoint presentation providing information about aging equipment replacements needs in the Public Works Department and at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Scott Duncan with Public Works and Steve Cooper with the Waste Water Treatment Plant Operations each gave detailed information about equipment status and priorities.

Mayor Cooper also included other items not on the equipment list for potential funding that included \$5,000 for virtual meeting equipment for council chambers, an estimated \$25,000 for stormwater mitigation swales, two lake aerators at a cost of \$150,000, and a broadband feasibility study and grant ready package that costs between \$25,000 and \$50,000. She also noted broadband grant funding may be available working with Federal, State, or Spokane County. She also included possible funding for nonprofits such as Lions Club, Kiwanis, and Re*Imagine Medical Lake to help them recover from lost donations and support community events. Emails from community members suggested a community garden, park improvements, a floating dock for swimmers, a permanent concession stand, dog park, and more festivals and celebrations.

All requests for ARPA funding will go to the Finance Committee for review and final recommendation brought to council. Council Member Starr thanked Mr. McMorris for his assistance and expertise. Citizens can continue to email their requests to the Mayor or council members.

Citizen Comments:

Shirley Maike, P.O. Box 388, Medical Lake, WA requested this money be utilized for broadband, financial assistance for the Medical Lake Food Bank, Medical Lake Outreach, aerators, businesses in town, and the Care & Share building. She also supports infrastructure needs such as streets and supports city staff receiving premium pay due to the pandemic. Additionally, Ms. Maike would like some additional funding for continuing the Food Bank renovations.

Lahnie Henderson, 611 E. Ladd, Medical Lake, WA requested a review of the Petrichor Broadband Consultants feasibility study which council voted down in December 2021. She noted that Medical Lake Community Outreach received \$50,000 in December 2021 for citizens' utility bills and rental assistance. In her opinion, businesses and learning centers were impacted by COVID and should be considered for funding. She supports consideration for funding for Fire District 3 equipment.

Mayor Cooper asked Mr. McMorris about spending money out of jurisdiction for Fire equipment. Jeff McMorris commented that there is no rule that we cannot spend out of our jurisdiction. Attorney Froese added a clarification the city has been annexed into Fire District 3 jurisdiction.

Keith Harland, 307 S. Broad, Medical Lake, WA supported spending for aerators and new equipment for Public Works as well as maintaining the roads.

Gerri Johnson, 106 S. Lefevre, Medical Lake, WA thanked the Mayor and Council for this public meeting and she concurs that broadband/internet are a top priority for her as a business owner in the community.

Lance Spears, 315 N. Hallett, Medical Lake, WA stated better broadband/internet access is needed for his kids' homework assignments.

Brad Olmstead, 1010 N. Fox Ridge, Medical Lake, WA commented that the Public Works information was important to him and asked if there are other funds to fix the issues and asked what happens if we don't use the money by 2026? Mayor Cooper responded the Publics Work equipment is 20-30 years old, the city is fiscally sound, and there is not much money available to replace those big-ticket items and make the equipment purchase and that any money not used by end of 2026 goes back to the Federal Government.

City Council Comments:

Council Member Pritchard shared the HCDAC (Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee) does have more money and Medical Lake doesn't always qualify because they exceed the 51% lower income threshold. He encouraged the Food Bank to talk with HCDAC about funding opportunities. He also agrees broadband services are important. He also mentioned the broadband feasibility study and suggested we reach out to internet providers that may be able to serve Medical Lake.

Council Member Starr stated a much-needed grader was purchased last year. As a member of the finance committee, she asked why we don't have anything set aside for basic needs? Mayor Cooper commented that everything for Public Works is paid for from general fund dollars and an equipment replacement plan is needed. Council member Starr stated she was shocked, and as such, she only expected to see just one or two large items upgraded. She was also interested in broadband possibilities and a grant ready feasibility study. Her biggest fear is putting the money into research and then not getting it done. Mayor Cooper responded that she agreed and the study includes creating a grant ready package which may be worth the expense.

Council Member Kennedy spoke in support of the aerators and park improvements. Scott Duncan responded about equipment needs related to park and lake maintenance and that his department is diligent in keeping equipment repaired, however many pieces of equipment are beyond repair. Mayor Cooper asked him to prioritize the list of equipment requested and present it to the Finance Committee.

Council Member Kennedy also shared the \$50,000 broadband study seemed like a lot of money and who was paying for what and maybe that's why it was voted down. Mayor Cooper agreed the decision was the right decision at the time because there was not enough information given to make a sound decision. She suggested inviting Petrchor back for a presentation. Mr. Kennedy also supported possible funding for the Food Bank building and asked Shirley Maike if there was a contractor and specific dollar amount. She responded she did not have that information.

Council Member Olmstead asked about the wastewater treatment plant equipment nearing end of life and would like to know more about the Avista rebate grants offset. Mayor Cooper responded that Avista has energy efficient lighting replacement grants and rebates and they have offered to visit city facilities to review the potential energy efficiencies and other lighting needs in city buildings.

Steve Cooper, the City's wastewater treatment plant supervisor, explained they are using original equipment from the 1990s and much of the drive system and other equipment has a life expectancy of 10 to 12 years and that time has already doubled adding they need to get replaced before they fail. Fine screen is a regulatory piece of equipment required by the Department of Ecology which the treatment plant team has been able to keep running but it is also past end of life. Mayor Cooper thanked him for his department's excellent work. She suggested the drives be staggered on a three or four year replacement plan.

Council Member Kulibert said he is pleased that the ARPA monies are eligible for the general fund and clarified a previous comment that the water/sewer fund is funded by the use fees. He stated if anything breaks, it will be so expensive it will be a big draw down on that fund and that street repairs don't have a lot of money allocated. He suggested using grant dollars instead.

Council Member Harbolt voiced support for broadband and updating public works equipment for regulatory compliance purposes.

Council Member Maxwell reiterated what everyone else has said and added the lake, streets, and broadband were his priorities.

Mayor Cooper thanked Mr. McMorris for attending the meeting and thanked the community for their feedback.

3. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn by Council Member Kennedy and seconded by Council Member Pritchard, motion carried.

Yes: 7, No: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Mayor

Administrative Assistant

DRAFT