

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 14, 2021

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, June 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom teleconference.

Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, Vice Chair
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

Members of the Committee absent: Alderman Patricia Klee

Also in Attendance: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Ernest Jette
Alderman Jan Schmidt

Alderman Elizabeth Lu
Bobbie Bagley, Public Health Division Director
Deputy Police Chief James Testaverde
Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager
Officer Kevin Pucillo

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Kelly

With that, we'll go into public comment. Is there anyone from the public that would like to give comment on anything that we'll be discussing this evening? I don't see anyone on here. Do you see anyone in the Chamber?

Alderman Wilshire

No.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Great. Then we will move into communications.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager

Re: R-21-149 and R-21-150

Without objection, Chairwoman Kelly accepted and placed the communication on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-21-137

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$352,078 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY “FY2022 REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK SERVICES”

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-137.

Chairwoman Kelly

Director Bagley are you hear to speak on this one?

ON THE QUESTION

Bobbie Bagley, Director of Public Health

I am. Thank you.

So this funding that we're receiving for the State is for our Public Health Network Services Grant. It does include several of our programs which includes our public health emergency preparedness. It also includes our continuum of care which focuses on substance misuse, prevention funding. It also includes our funding for our Public Health Advisory Council which we call our "PHAC". This is funding for one year and it's a directly funded contract to the Division of Public Health and Community Services as a sole source grant funding. This is funding that will allow for us to continue maintaining the efforts that we have been for emergency preparedness not just for COVID but for any other biological or hazards that may happen throughout the city over the next fiscal year. It does employ the majority of our community services staff, which includes our public health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, a portion of the salary for our Behavioral Health Specialist which is our Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator. It includes funding to support part of our Epidemiologist position as well as the Public Health Administrative Assistant position as well.

So the State has provided this funding for us over a number of years and like I mentioned earlier, this is just for a one-year contract for Fiscal Year 2022. I'm not sure if there are any questions the Committee has. There are no additional funds that have to be provided by the city for this work to be done.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Director Bagley. Does anyone from the Committee have any questions? If you're in the chamber can you just give me a...yup there you ago. Nothing from the chamber?

Alderman Wilshire

No one.

Chairwoman Kelly

Miles might have a question but I don't think you'd understand it. Okay. Then I think we're ready to call the roll.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Wilshire 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Director Bagley.

R-21-138

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$25,563.84 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY "STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM" INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2020 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-138, BY ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Kelly

Is someone from the Police Department here? I think I said...

ON THE QUESTION

Officer Kevin Pucillo

Yes Kevin Pucillo. I'm the new Grant Manager.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Thank you.

Officer Kevin Pucillo

Do you want me to speak on behalf of the grant?

Chairwoman Kelly

Sure if you could just give us a quick overview that would be great.

Officer Kevin Pucillo

So this is a second part. We got awarded a grant last year for 9 of the night vision goggles. This grant will allow us to staff the entire squad team with the new night vision goggles. There is no match required for this and with this new technology, it's going to allow our SWAT team members to be able to have the same technology as the other SWAT teams throughout the State.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you for that. Do any of the committee members or aldermen have any questions?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I'd just like to say this is money well spent and thank you for stepping up to be the new Grant Manager.

Officer Kevin Pucillo

Thank you.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you.

Officer Kevin Pucillo

Thank you all for your time.

Chairwoman Kelly

Of course. Anyone else? I'd like to say welcome as well. Thanks for being here tonight.

Okay and I think we can call the roll.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Wilshire 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-21-149

Endorsers: Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**APPROVING THE USE OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS BY
NEIGHBORWORKS OF SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR 40 ASH STREET**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-21-149 BY
ROLL CALL**

Chairwoman Kelly

I see Carrie Schena here and then it looks like there's also someone here from NeighborWorks but let's start with you Carrie.

ON THE QUESTION

Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager

Good evening. Carrie Schena Manager of the Urban Programs Department. So I can speak. I have two resolutions before the committee tonight. This is the first. This is utilizing our HOME funds which we receive from HUD and the intended use of those funds is to develop affordable housing. There's a special set aside that we put into the Resolution each year that we call "CHDO" funding. Community Housing Development Organization and Neighbor Works qualifies as such an agency. They're a nonprofit. We spoke is there supportable housing. So they came to us. They recently purchased a property at 40 Ash Street. It's a four-unit building that is partially occupied right now. I believe it's two occupied, two vacant and it's in need of some substantial rehab. So these funds would go towards that project. I do see that Jennifer Vadney from NeighborWorks is also on the call. So if there's anything additional either that she wants to add or if there are questions, we welcome those from the committee.

Chairwoman Kelly

Jennifer did you want to add anything before I open it up to the committee.

Jennifer Vadney, Neighborhood Development Director

Just to say thank you for the consideration and Carrie really summed it up nicely. There are two vacancies right now and we're ready to start construction. It's in dire need of improvements.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you and thank you for your commitment to affordable housing here in Nashua.

Is there anyone from the committee who has questions?

Alderman Wilshire

No one in the chamber.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah it does (inaudible) guys eventually. It's nice and quiet over there.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I have a question. I'm just curious. How much is the funding for this?

Chairwoman Kelly

Carrie do you have the answer in front of you?

Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager

Sure. So the Resolution is authorizing up to \$207,460. It's an odd number but that's our current balance of CHDO funding. NeighborWorks has put in a request. They actually just revised it due to some updated construction costs. I think everybody is aware right now what's happening in the construction industry and how that's changing very rapidly almost day by day. In the Resolution we'd like to authorize the full amount of CHDO funding. We don't think we'll go up to that upper bumper but rather than have to come back as those bids come in, we wanted to handle it that way.

Chairwoman Kelly

I have a question. So if we do not use all of those funds, do we have to then do another resolution to then use them for something else or can we allocate it next year when we redo our allocations?

Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager

Right. So if we don't utilize it, it will remain because it still has to be used for a CHDO purpose. So until the next project comes along, we would then reprogram it from this use to that use rather than it just sitting in the line item that it sits in each year.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. With construction costs the way they are, I wouldn't be surprised if they used all of it but just wondering what happened so thank you.

Anyone else from the chamber have questions?

Alderman Wilshire

I don't see anyone.

Chairwoman Kelly

You can call the roll please.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron,

Alderman Wilshire

4

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED**R-21-150**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
 Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd
 Alderman June M. Caron
 Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu
 Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
 Alderman Skip Cleaver
 Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLANS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 AND 2022 RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (“CDBG”)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Kelly

Carrie did you want to speak on this? I know there was a little bit of a complication this year that you wanted to talk to. Go for it.

ON THE QUESTION

Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager

Sure. So this is related to our what we call our “entitlement award” which is the amount that we received from HUD each year. We had already gone through the process of doing our annual action plan, and how it came to Human Affairs Committee, did our public hearings, and just as we were about to submit for the May 15th deadline HUD announced that they needed to revise the allocations. So it was something that came from their headquarters office and our citizen participation plan outlines how we would outline allocating funds or new activities which is the process we’re doing now to come back thorough the Board and to Human Affairs. It’s not enough of an amount to warrant what we call a “substantial amendment” so they don’t need to do an official public hearing or a 30 day comment period. Once this works through the regular resolution process, we can go ahead and move but we could not submit our action plan until we addressed this change.

In addition to the increase which the increase is \$9,742, it’s only the CDBG program. HOME was not affected so we didn’t need to do anything with that. Since we had to come back to the Committee, we figured we would also clean up some other activities that were outstanding. There were a few balances to reprogram. The Front Door Agency had reached out and talked to us about possibly changing the use of their Fiscal Year 2021 grant. So knowing we were coming back, we wanted to close that one with them and there’s a memo attached to the back of my memo explaining that change. So they had received funds in Fiscal Year 2021 to do some rehab on one of their transitional housing units. They ended up being able to use CARES Act funding through the Governor’s office to do that. So they identified this other project on Vine Street. A very similar use, similar rehab, and asked if they could allocate the funds to that address instead.

The last change was to take some of that increase and apply it towards Sandy Pond. The Parks and Rec. Department, again, conversations that have been happening over the last several months, they were possibly thinking that they were not going to be able to do Sandy Pond with the amount that was awarded to them last fiscal year and they were considering maybe cancelling the Los Amigos Park which was funded last year as well and asking to roll the money over to Sandy Pond because it's in more dire need of rehab. So when I mentioned that we had to come back to the Committee for this increase and would they like to make those changes, they sort of got a little excited and said well can we use the increase towards Sandy Pond and then still be able to do both projects.

I spoke with the new Superintendent of Parks and Rec. He wasn't able to join tonight but basically Sandy Pond last year when they requested – they requested \$35,000 and was awarded 10. So this would add another 15 and it still only brings it up to \$25,000 for a total. It's still less in their original request but it's enough that they would be able to do some of the critical things over there which just to refresh the Committee was their needs to be a new dock constructed. So again just speaking back to the cost of wood and construction right now and then beyond the dock if there's budget permitting, they would like to update some of the playground equipment, and the grills, and other space. So the dock would be contracted out and the other pieces would be done with internal labor force. That's that sort of complicated Resolution and what happened there.

Chairwoman Kelly

So in the past we've had to put this through to a public hearing and then talk about allocations. Since we don't have to have a public hearing, did you want us to take up this matter and allocate it tonight?

Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager

Yes. That would be the preference is to get the funds allocated and the other activities clean up within this Resolution because, again, our action plan is on hold until we can finalize the award amount and what the activities will be.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Wilshire I mean I'll open it up to questions from the Committee but do we need to make a second motion to make the allocations or does the one on the floor stand?

Alderman Wilshire

The one on the floor would stand.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Okay, great thank you. So I'll open it up to questions from the Committee please. We're a quiet bunch tonight. I'm all set. I don't see anybody in the Chamber. I think we can call the roll.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Wilshire

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Ms. Schena.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN- None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ADJOURN, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Wilshire 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Committee Clerk