

**City of Beverly  
City Council Special Meeting  
Public Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 2, 2021, 7pm  
City Council Chambers, 191 Cabot St.**

Paul Guanci, City Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. City Clerk, Lisa Kent, took the attendance by roll call.

Members Present: Stacy Ames, Dominic Copeland, Kathleen Feldman, Timothy Flaherty, Todd Rotondo, Estelle Rand, Paul Guanci

Members Absent: Julie Flowers, Scott Houseman

Copeland led the pledge of allegiance.

**Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meetings: Finance and Property/Committee of the Whole June 15, 2021 and City Council Minutes June 23, 2021 and June 28, 2021**

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried (7-0).

**Communications from His Honor the Mayor**

**Order #139**-Grant-\$180 from Mass Department of Transportation Rail & Transit Division for the Council on Aging to place advertising on Diversity.com

Catherine Barrett, Director of Grants, stated this was to expand hiring outlets.

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

**Order #140**-Grant-\$180,000-Mass Department of Mental Health, Jail Arrest Diversion Program for a one year period to assist police staff on calls for individuals who need mental health/and or substance use supports

Barrett stated the previous grant was for a three year term, and it was a huge success. This grant is to add a second clinician. Barrett noted in the three year term, one clinician served six communities. The largest-demand community was Beverly, then Gloucester, then Ipswich. With the second grant for one year, one clinician will be devoted to Beverly and Ipswich, and the other clinician will be devoted to Gloucester, Manchester, Essex and Rockport. Beverly is the lead on the grant. Barrett stated she does the financial and grant compliance work on the back end.

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

**Order #141**-Approval for Reciprocal Easements with Briscoe Village, LLC. in connection with the sale of the former Briscoe School, Sohier Road

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs.

**Order #142**-Donation-35 child passenger car seats from EOPSS and OGR-Car Seat Distribution Program

Peter O'Connor, Fire Chief, stated these will be used in conjunction with other local agencies to make sure they get into the right hands.

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

**Order #143-Grant-\$12,606,097** in American Rescue Plan Act grant funds from Mass Executive Office and Administration and Finance to help cover increased expenditures, replenish lost revenue and mitigate economic harm from the COVID-19 pandemic

Michael Cahill, Mayor, stated this is a unique opportunity. A team of department heads from across the administration and key support staff has been working on this initiative. Cahill stated that he understands that the Council, his colleagues in local government and the community at large need to be part of the discussion to work through the process of setting priorities for use of the grant. From the time it became clear that this grant was going to happen, it has been our intent to do the following: one, work with the U.S. [Department of the] Treasury, Massachusetts [Executive Office for] Administration and Finance, as well as through several networks including planning, public health, finance, legal, Massachusetts Municipal [Association] and others, to educate ourselves regarding the eligible categories of expenditures and to talk and discuss with colleagues in other communities and throughout the state as to what people are seeing. That has been ongoing for some time. Two, work through that process and work to identify administration priorities given our understanding and knowledge of the needs of the community and of the impacts being felt by Covid. All this is being done in preparation for the next step of meetings with Councilors as we understand the importance of the Council's perspective and advocacy. We are looking to start those meetings the week of August 16th. Once those steps happen and we have had the chance to look at all this together, we plan to hold a community meeting and invite community members to share their perspectives on Covid's impact here in Beverly, where the critical needs are, and how we might best address these. From the start, the intention has been acknowledging the uniqueness of this whole dynamic and to try to work through a really robust process to figure out where to head with these expenditures. The goal is to conduct this process over the next several weeks. The ARPA funds can actually be expended over several years; we have through December 31, 2024 to expend funds. Given that the funds will be able to be expended over several years, we expect that the conversations will be revisited and will continue through the life of the grant.

Copeland asked what a yea or nay vote tonight would mean.

Cahill stated the vote would be to accept the money and approve the administration's expenditure of it. Cahill committed to a full conversation and vetting. We will utilize that to help take what we are seeing as opportunities and needs and shape where we go with it. It is not a dynamic where the Council will be looking at it in a line by line or expenditure by expenditure kind of way.

Copeland stated that right now there is not a full understanding of how those funds would be dispersed if it was approved, so if we are voting yea, we are saying that also to the disbursement of it.

Cahill stated it is unique because most of the grants that we receive, we understand when we apply for them what they will be for and we understand when they come in what they will be spent on, so that is easier to fully see what you are voting for when you vote to accept and approve expenditure. Here, it is a set of broad categories of eligible expenditures that are meant to be both circumscribed and flexible.

Williams stated this is a formula grant as opposed to a competitive grant. This is a request to approve expenditure of the grant. If the Council votes to approve the expenditure tonight, then

that is approval of the Mayor going forward with qualifying programs under ARPA. Legally, if the Council approves tonight, there is not another step in which the administration has to receive Council approval for the expenditure.

Cahill stated he fully recognizes that there needs to be a lot of input here. It is a process that we are looking to undertake in good faith. We are all elected to represent our constituents, our residents, our business owners, and in the case of our department heads and other staff who are working on this, they are all entrusted with the best interest of the community. We would not lay out any kind of a comprehensive plan of expenditures because we do not know what may come that we had not anticipated. It is all about finding the right formula of investments that will really help the community all in all.

Rotondo asked if there is a long term goal with the funds since it is a three year grant and elected officials have two year terms. Rotondo also asked if there is a simplified method of getting it on the website to show how the money is being expended so the everyday citizen knows how it is being used since it is a large amount of money.

Cahill stated we will do the best we can with sharing it, absolutely. Once it is expended, it is certainly easy to show that.

Flaherty clarified the process, stating that it is different from the budget process. Flaherty stated he appreciates what the Mayor is doing by getting the community and City Council involved and getting input in the process, but ultimately the responsibility falls with the Mayor's Office.

Cahill stated as he understands it, there is no requirement for that process. The reality is this is our community, so it only makes sense that we spend the time sorting through it. It does not mean that all of us are going to be happy with every expenditure, it does not mean that every member of the public will be. We are going to undergo a process that we hope will give us a lot of good input. We all want to do what is right with it.

Rand asked realistically what the timeline would be for making the first expenditures from this grant.

Cahill stated if the comfort level is not there tonight, if that involves wanting to see this process unfold and see the back and forth and the input and the conversation, the hope is that we will be able to have these conversations together the week of the 16th and soon after Labor Day schedule a community meeting. If that process is something the Council wants to see unfold first, then the goal would be to have seen all that by the second September meeting. There are a couple of things that we have been looking through in terms of whether we might expend money in the meantime, and it certainly does not have to happen that way; there may be priorities that the Council would like to see freed up sooner than that, and those are the considerations. It can work either way.

Ames stated she is really encouraged to hear this community conversation effort that Mayor Cahill is putting forward. It would be a great step to also put online in detail the dollars that were spent in 2020 from the Covid money. Ames acknowledged it is complicated and suggested the HVAC system for the library may be a candidate for some of this funding. There would be tremendous value in holding off because the councilors are not all here and because it would give the community and the Council a little time just to catch up.

Referred to Committee on Finance and Property.

**Order #144**-Grant-\$250,000 unrestricted grant donation to benefit Parks and Recreation

Barrett thanked Bruce Doig for his work on this grant.

Bruce Doig, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated this grant was from a family in memory of a family member who loved visiting Lynch Park. They are also paying for two viewfinders and plaques to be put up in Lynch Park.

The motion to accept the donation was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

### **Communications from other City Officers and Boards**

**Order #146**-Councilor Flowers-4th Quarter Summary from Finance and Facilities Subcommittee of Beverly School Committee

A motion to receive and place on file was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

### **Communications, Applications and Petitions**

**Order #147**-National Grid-Plan #30405117-Railroad Ave.

A motion to set the public hearing set for September 13 at 7:15pm was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

**Order #148**-National Grid-Plan #30405117-Park St.

A motion to set the public hearing set for September 13 at 7:25pm was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

**Order #149**-Department of Public Utilities-Notice of filing, public hearing, procedural conference and request for comments

A motion to receive and place on file was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

### **Motions and Orders**

**Order #136**-Planning Director Darlene Wynne-Proposed Ordinance Change-Possession or consumption on public ways, in public places or on private property

Lisa Kent, City Clerk, stated this was in the newspaper.

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

**Order #137**-Planning Director Darlene Wynne-Proposed Ordinance Change-Sandwich board signs

Kent stated this was also in the newspaper on July 2, 2021 and today is the final passage.

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

The City Council recessed for committee work.

The City Council meeting was called back to order.

## **Reports of Committees**

### **Legal Affairs**

#### **Order #134A-Councilor Houseman-Copy of Letter to Solicitor**

The Committee on Legal Affairs recommended that the Council receive and place on file Order #134A (2-0). A vote to approve was taken, and the motion carried (7-0).

#### **Order #141-Approval for Reciprocal Easements with Briscoe Village, LLC. in connection with the sale of the former Briscoe School, Sohler Road**

Ames asked about parking, stating it looks like there will be ten deeded parking spaces. Ames asked how a “permittee” is defined because that is who it says can park there.

Stephanie Williams, City Solicitor, stated the ten parking spaces are for the benefit of people using the City field. Briscoe Village is allowing continued use of the ten spaces in connection with the field.

Ames confirmed that it would be for the public. The adjacent side streets are already pretty crowded. Once this project goes in, there should be some economic revitalization in the adjacent residential and commercial area.

Cahill stated with regards to the community accessing the field, we don't anticipate that there will be organized spots there moving forward, so the ten spaces will be more than sufficient for informal uses of the field. As far as adjacent zoned areas that are commercial and retail, there are requirements for them for parking. If new proposals come forward on any of those parcels they will have to be looked at.

Ames, Cahill, and Williams confirmed that the project permitting and financing is on track. Cahill stated the goal has been to close on the property by the first quarter of next year and to have people living there by 2024.

Ames commented she has received complaints about nuisance lighting and construction noise before 7am. Ames encouraged being proactive with the neighbors so they understand what is coming in terms of traffic, noise and lighting and being respectful of that.

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried (7-0).

Guanci stated the next meeting will be September 13.

Ames stated that the scouts are having a food drive on August 22, from 2-6pm at Dane Street Church on behalf of Beverly Bootstraps if anyone wants to bring anything.

Guanci reminded everyone it is homecoming this week so check [beverlyhomecoming.org](http://beverlyhomecoming.org) for events.

The motion to adjourn was made and seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried (8-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.