

**DURHAM CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2022 @ 2:00 PM
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM MEETING**

The Durham City Council held a Special Meeting in-person and virtually on the above date and time to discuss ARPA Fund/Projects with the following members present: Mayor Elaine O'Neal, Mayor Pro Tempore Mark-Anthony Middleton and Council Members Javiera Caballero, DeDreana Freeman, Monique Holsey-Hyman, Jillian Johnson and Leonardo Williams. Excused Absences: None.

Also present: City Manager Wanda Page, City Clerk Diana Schreiber and Deputy Clerk Ashley Wyatt.

Mayor O'Neal called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance in the Council Chamber and to those attending virtually.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCIL]

There were no announcements by Council.

SUBJECT: ARPA BUDGET ITEM

Mayor O'Neal turned the presiding of the meeting over to Council Members Caballero and Williams.

Council Member Caballero led the discussion in regards to the ARPA project. She thanked Council Member Williams and her colleagues during this process; stated that she and other Council Members were pleased with the outcome of the project; explained the pause in the project due to new Council Members coming on board; and noted that Mayor O'Neal had asked Council Member Williams and herself to take over the ARPA Budget process.

Council Member Caballero explained that her colleague, Council Member Johnson had created a funding excel spreadsheet to show the project to be funded in this ARPA budget; only 50% of the ARPA money is being used for the budget which was decided by Council with the remaining funds to be set aside for other budgets in the future.

Council Member Caballero want to come to a decision to honor the 50% budgeted funds, reflected on the staff process based on community projects that were submitted and opened the floor for remarks.

Spreadsheets were passed out and Council Members were instructed to choose Option A, B, C, or D.

Council Member Williams spoke to his requested update on the spreadsheet and stated the former language was misleading.

Council Member Williams opened the floor for virtual public comments.

Public Comment from Shameka McNeil for comment on her proposal. She stated the project would be great with healthy choices for the Durham area and mentioned the proposed funds would help provide more resources in the community from job searches to access tools for healthy choices.

Marie Faison was not in the queue.

Bonita Green for Merrick Moore Protections Project, voiced that the funding would help the community have an impact in their area with special mention of affordable housing and protect green spaces.

John Killeen for Community Planning for Prosperous Community Project, stated the project was built on many years of real estate and land control within the community. The proposal would help slow processes down to allow for shared learning and analysis of development.

Thomas McQuiston for Reintegration Support Network, which is the part of the collaborative support for citizens re-entering society for incarcerated citizens, explained the funding would support the peer support team to help recently released citizen's adjustment back into the community.

Maya Jackson for Mom Made Inc., who provides holistic services for black, brown, and indigenous individuals within Durham, noted her organization was seeking funding to provide access to maternal health care for the black, brown, and indigenous community.

Afiya Carter, representing Back in the Black Coalitio, stated the funding would be used to bring the organization back up and running.

Bree Davis, speaking for the Harriet Tubman Project, explained there were folks being overlooked within the community and hoped the budget project would reach the community.

Lorissa Seibel, spoke to the Eviction Debt Relief Fund, pushed for the funds due to the high rate of individuals losing housing in Durham; and estimated that 1500 persons were in need of help in the Durham community.

Council Member Williams opened the floor to speakers present in the Chamber.

Edgar Vigara, Pastor and Durham Hidden Collaborative Application, stated he was thankful for the vaccine initiative and praised how it helped with allowing COVID-19

tests for the Hispanic/Latino community. He would like approval to continue the initiative.

Fred Johnson from Durham Social Determinants of Health asked where the initial proposal was submitted. Council Member Williams stated that he reached out to Budget Department and the City Clerk's Office.

Ajax Wooly from the Durham Affordable Housing Team spoke on three different programs; DASH (Durham Affordable Sustainable Housing Program), MASS (Multiple Access Support and Supply), and DHHIP (Durham Homeowner/Home Buyer Initiated Program). The authors of the programs have been working hard to see through these programs to accommodate the wishes on the blocks where they serve. He spoke on the Housing initiative in the Greater Bragtown area.

Leslie from the US Committee of Refugees, explained that her organization partnered with crisis programs for those that could not receive services due to not having documentation, helped with homelessness prevention, supported programming for women of domestic violence, provided housing assistance and other services for the undocumented.

Sherry Taylor, DASH, MASS, DHHIP, representing Durham Community Land Trustees, stated that the market was very challenging for the renters along with homeowners. The proposal would allow help in this area within Durham.

Kelly Crane from Farmer Food Chair, spoke to Rebuilding Capacity from COVID-19 levels. They were an organization that helped feed Durham from produce grown by local farmers.

Council Member Williams stated on the record that anyone who wasn't heard can email the City Council and would be received by all on the board

Council Member Caballero thanked those who spoke on behalf of their proposals/projects. Durham County received ARPA funds over \$60 million, along with DPS, each branch of local government was deciding how to handle the funds. Council made the decision to use their ARPA funds in the community. There were certain guidelines/rules that should be taken in consideration or else the funds would have to be paid back. She wanted to make the guidelines clear and let the public know of the rationale supporting some projects and not others.

Council Member Caballero opened comments up to the Council Members. She also explained the Options on the spreadsheet:

Option A-Staff Process, anything made above a score of 24;

Option B- Tiered approach, projects would be scored and based on ranking that is how projects would be funded;

Option C- Everyone would get up to 70% of what their asking maximum of \$1 million;

Option D- Everyone would get 100% of their request/max at \$1 million.

Council expressed their support for the various options. Council Member Johnson was leaning toward Option B and her second choice was Option C.

Council Member Freeman explained that she was pushing towards Option C.

Council Member Williams explained he wanted to work with staff to determine the applicants up-to funding.

Council Member Caballero stated there are opportunities in the future to fund projects that were on the spreadsheet reading 'Do Not Fund' and explained that she wanted to come to agreement in making a decision on funding.

Council Member Freeman wanted to add the projects to prioritize to fall under Option C so that all can be considered.

City Manager Page wanted to clarify in the process agreed upon, she wanted to ensure that the decision would be discussed after the initial decision.

Mayor Pro Tem Middleton stated he wanted clarity on the options and how there would be funding left over with the wide range of funding.

City Manager Page stated that some proposals would only be granted funding due to treasury requirements. She ensured that the decision would be made due to the proper guidelines per the treasury and did not expect a lot of funding to be leftover.

Mayor Pro Tem Middleton agreed with City Manager Page and explained that he was leaning toward Option C.

Council Member Caballero asked for any more questions and comments from the Council.

Mayor Elaine O'Neal thanked all involved in gathering information and to Council Member Caballero and Williams on their initiative. She is leaning towards Option C being first choice or Option B was also her choice.

Council Member Williams wanted clarity on Option C and what was looked for when they applied.

City Manager Page clarified that reports would be given to the initial proposers and these were not donation type funding.

Council Member Hyman states she was torn between Option C and Option B but clarified that Option C was more to her liking.

Council Member Caballero shared her thoughts and she agreed to Option B due to the funding formula given. She stated she was fine with Option C, as well.

To summarize, Council Member Caballero shared that the Council members came to agreement to Option C and wanted to share with the public of the guidelines of Option C. She encouraged the proposers to reapply with the knowledge knowing the funding would be up to 70%.

Mayor O'Neal thanked the applicants and encouraged those to reapply if they were not in the group at this time.

Adjournment at 3:19 p.m.

Diana Schreiber, NCCMC, CMC
City Clerk