



Richland County
 Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee
 July 19, 2021 – 3:00 PM
 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

Yvonne McBride District 3	Paul Livingston District 4	Gretchen Barron, Chair District 7	Joe Walker District 6	Chakisse Newton District 10
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Committee Members Present: Gretchen Barron, Chair; Paul Livingston, Joe Walker and Chakisse Newton

Others Present: Allison Terracio, Michelle Onley, Angela Weathersby, Tamar Black, Ashiya Myers, Leonardo Brown, Lori Thomas, John Thompson, Jeff Ruble, Brittney Hoyle-Terry, Denise Teasdell, Randy Pruitt, Ronaldo Myers, Bill Davis, Zachary Cavanaugh, Michael Byrd, Katie Marr, Tyler Kirk and Steven Gaither

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Barron called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.
2. **Adoption of Agenda** – Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. J. Walker, to approve the agenda as published.

In Favor: Livingston, J. Walker, Barron, and Newton

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **American Rescue Plan Public Input** – Mr. Brown provided a brief overview of the American Rescue Plan and how the funds could be used.

Ms. Newton inquired about finalization of the Federal guidelines.

Ms. Thomas responded the final questions were allowed into Treasury on Friday, July 16th. It will likely take a few weeks for them to compile those questions. She noted there was an update on Thursday, but we will not have the final rules until around July 31st or first part of August.

Ms. Barron inquired when the preliminary plan is due.

Mr. Brown responded August 31, 2021.

Ms. Barron inquired how non-profits can apply for funds.

Mr. Brown responded non-profits will have to show how they were negatively impacted as a result of COVID-19, and how the funds will be used to address those negative impacts.

Ms. Barron inquired how the funds can be used.

Mr. Brown responded they would have to use the Federal Treasury guidelines.

Ms. Barron inquired if there would be a factsheet on the County's website, so organizations could know if their requests were eligible before applying.

Mr. Brown responded Council would have to make a decision on distributing funds to non-profits.

Mr. J. Walker inquired where constituents can go to see the preliminary plan, as it evolves, as well as any iterations that follow, to the final plan.

Mr. Brown responded they could post it online.

Ms. Barron opened the floor for the public hearing.

The following persons spoke or provided written comments: Ms. Latasha Taste, Communities and Schools; Ms. Omme-Salma Rahemtullah, FoodShare SC; A. Michael and Mary Ann Fey; Ms. Carol Lee; Rev. Peter Sousa; Ms. Ashley Ramsey; Ms. Rowena Nylund; Ms. Diane Babuin; Ms. Helen Cargile; Ms. Lucy Orton; Mr. Zeke Hanford; Mr. David Lee; Ms. Ellen Fowler Skidmore; Ms. Kayla Gilchrist; Ms. Morain Gable; Ms. Kia Smith; Ms. Rita Hamilton and Ms. Michelle Mitchum

Mr. Livingston stated, if we are going to provide funding opportunities for non-profits, we need to make a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Brown responded this is included in the County's preliminary plan. He noted Council would need to define a specific pot of money because we have already allocated approximately \$6.5M toward premium pay.

Ms. Newton inquired if we have planned how we are going to monitor other American Rescue funds. The State and other municipalities have also received funding. She noted it would be beneficial if we understand how our funds are interacting with other funds in the community.

Mr. Brown responded the County's intent is to see if there is any duplication.

Ms. Newton inquired if we can share how citizens can continue to share their input about the funds, and if there will be any additional public hearings.

Mr. Brown responded citizens can go onto the County's website, email the Clerk of Council's Office, and sign up to participate in Council meetings. He stated they have not finalized additional dates for public hearings/input meetings.

Mr. Livingston recommended we continue to do whatever is necessary to access funds from the State.

Ms. Barron stated there have been discussions with Mr. Brown and Ms. Thomas about forming a citizens' advisory committee, similar to the Blue Ribbon Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Barron closed the floor to the public hearing.

4. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:44 PM.