



City of Pensacola

CITY COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2021

5:30 P.M.

Council Chambers

Council President Moore called the meeting to order at 5:34 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Jared Moore, Ann Hill, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton (attended via Microsoft Teams), Casey Jones, Sherri Myers, Delarian Wiggins

Council Members Absent: None

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person. City Council encourages those not fully vaccinated to wear face coverings that cover their nose and mouth.

The meeting can also be watched live stream at: [cityofpensacola.com/428/Live-Meeting-Video](https://www.cityofpensacola.com/428/Live-Meeting-Video).

To provide input:

- Agenda Items, for specific items on the agenda: citizens may submit an online form here <https://www.cityofpensacola.com/ccinput> **beginning at 3:00 P.M. until that agenda item has been voted upon** to indicate they wish to speak to a specific item on the agenda **and include a phone number. Staff will call the person** at the appropriate time so the citizen can directly address the City Council using a telephone held up to a microphone. **Any form received after an agenda item has been voted upon will not be considered.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [21-00992](#) DISCUSSION REGARDING THE HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE'S RANKING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF \$2,575,000 SET ASIDE FROM THE CITY'S ALLOCATION OF ARPA FUNDING.

Council President Moore clarified that first Council will hear funding proposals from the organizations which were ranked and recommended by the Homelessness Reduction Task Force and Council Members may ask questions of each presenter. Public comments will follow under the action item for funding consideration.

The following organizations addressed Council regarding their proposed project:

Another Chance Transitional Service (ACTS) - *It Takes More than a House* (\$165,000) - - not present

AMR at Pensacola, Inc., James Reeves, Founder & President – *9 Tiny Homes* (\$750,000)

Bright Bridge Ministries, Robin Noble, Executive Director – *Bright Bridge* (\$384,000)

Children's Home Society, Lindsey Cannot, Executive Director – *Homeless Reduction Intern Opportunity* (\$135,254)

E-Comfort, Inc., Jennifer Tompkins – *Florida Identification Program* (\$84,375)

Lakeview Center, Inc., Dr. David Josephs, Psy.D., Clinical Director – *Mobile Response Team* (\$500,000)

Lotus Campaign, Beth Silverman, Executive Director – *Housing-driven Solution for Homelessness* (\$425,000) - - not a part of the Task Force's ranking and recommendation process

Pensacola Caring Hearts – *Blessing the Homeless through Food* (\$153,320) – not present

Pensacola Dream Center, Terri Merrick, Founder & Executive Director – *Canopy of Hope* (\$558,000)

Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola (REAP), Inc., Vinnie Whibbs, Vice President of Development & Director of Operations and Laura Kennedy, Member of Fearless Community, Inc.– *Emergency Women's Shelter* (\$417, 879); *SOS 2200 Palafox Campsite* (\$316,850); *SOS REAP Lodge Campsite* (\$183,520); *SOS on Houston Street Campsite* (\$267,540); and *Navigational Holistic Center* (\$511,475) - - totaling \$1,752,464

DISCUSSION ITEMS (CONT'D.)

Continuation of organizations addressing Council regarding their proposed project:

United Ministries, Rev. Ashley Wilkinson Meyer, Executive Director – Sustained Case Management (\$336,000)

Discussion took place throughout presentations with Council Members asking questions of organizations' representatives. Finance Director Lovoy also responded accordingly to questions. All proposals, ranking and recommendations of the Task Force along with Finance staff's risk assessment, and Task Force member's ranking note are on file with background materials (except for Lotus Campaign which was not a part of the Task Force's ranking and recommendation process).

Council Member Wiggins referenced a proposal sent to City Council (via email) from Caleb Houston of *There Is Hope* which was not a part of the Task Force's ranking and recommendation process, and he made a motion that City Council hear the proposal from Mr. Houston and Council Member Hill seconded the motion.

Some discussion took place regarding the motion.

Upon conclusion of discussion, the vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 Jared Moore, Ann Hill, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton, Casey Jones, Sherri Myers, Delarian Wiggins
No: 0 None

There is Hope Homeless Shelter, Caleb Houston, Founder & Director – *Huts 4 Our Friends Gated Community* (\$1.5 million)

Mr. Houston responded to questions from Council Members. Finance Director Lovoy also responded accordingly to questions.

ACTION ITEM**2. [21-00989](#) HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION PROPOSALS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING**

Recommendation: That City Council accept the Homelessness Reduction Task Force ranking recommendations and approve the distribution of \$2,575,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds based on the provided rankings. Further, that City Council authorize the Mayor to set aside \$425,000 for a future distribution to the Lotus Campaign.

A motion was made by Council Member Jones and seconded by Council Member Wiggins.

William Hanlon (via phone held up to a mic)
 George Grace
 Colvin Rancifer (no longer in attendance)
 Cindy Redeker
 Michael Jones
 Walter Arrington
 Travis Tompkins
 Suzanne Wagg
 Lesa Gibson
 Meagan Moffett
 Brad Moffett
 Shernita Wydner
 George Mead
 Leigh Jeudevine (no longer in attendance)
 Harper Habek (no longer in attendance)
 Jo MacDonald
 Melanie Nichols

Ryan Breich (no longer in attendance)
 Joanne Peele (no longer in attendance)
 Colin Gold
 Charles Jasso (no longer in attendance)
 Mary McCaa
 Aaron Schneier
 Pueschel Schneier
 Rand Hicks
 Carollyn Taylor
 Michael Kimberl
 Caleb Houston (waived)
 Melisa Ralph (no longer in attendance)
 Aronica Thomas
 Carolyn Grawi
 Aaron Ball
 Richard Crane (not available by phone)

Discussion ensued among Council. Finance Director Lovoy responded accordingly to questions related to funding guidelines under ARPA and risk assessment of proposals. Council Executive Kraher provided input and guidance as to options available to Council related to funding of proposals and risk assessments, along with the possibility of postponing action to another date.

Council Member Myer made a motion to postpone to a date certain and Council Member Hill seconded. City Clerk Burnett suggested the Council President work with Council Executive Kraher to schedule a date.

Discussion ensued among Council regarding the motion. Finance Director Lovoy responded accordingly to questions related to funding of the Lotus Campaign, which was not presented to the Task Force, but representatives are currently working with Mayor Robinson regarding their proposal.

ACTION ITEM (CONT'D.)

Beth Silverman, Executive Director of Lotus Campaign was provided an opportunity to (again) address Council and clarified their position at this time with the City.

Council Executive Kraher provided input as to how to best move forward suggesting the recommendation (for Item 2, 21-00989) in its entirety be postponed and allow for Mr. Houston’s proposal to also be considered. **Council President Moore restated the motion that that this item be postponed to a later date and add There is Hope in the list of proposed projects including a complete risk assessment on the proposal.**

There being no further discussion, the vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 Ann Hill, Casey Jones, Jennifer Brahier, Sherri Myers, Delarian Wiggins
No: 2 Jared Moore, Teniade Broughton

ADJOURNMENT

WHEREUPON the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

Adopted: _____

Approved: _____
Jared Moore, President of City Council

Attest:

Ericka L. Burnett, City Clerk