



City of Pensacola

CITY COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2021

5:30 P.M.

Council Chambers

Council President Hill called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Ann Hill, Delarian Wiggins, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton, Casey Jones (attended via Microsoft Teams), Jared Moore, Sherri Myers (left 9:19)

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.**

ACTION ITEM**1. [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.

Council President Hill explained that this item was previously discussed and postponed by Council at a special meeting on November 10, 2021 and that this meeting was scheduled to address Item-00989. She indicated she would entertain a motion.

A motion was made by Council Vice President Wiggins and seconded by Council Member Moore that Item 21-00989 be brought back to the floor.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Council President Hill summarized the issues before Council related to Item 21-00989 and the options before Council. She also noted that it was determined by Finance Department staff that There Is Hope is not eligible for ARPA funding.

Neighborhood Services Administrator Powell addressed Council on behalf of Mayor Robinson (sponsor) and indicated that it is the intent to bring a proposal forward at the December 16th Council meeting related to the Lotus Campaign and that they be removed from consideration at this time.

A motion was made by Council Member Myers and seconded by Council Member Brahier that the Lotus Campaign be removed from discussion at this time.

Discussion ensued among Council with Neighborhood Services Administrator Powell fielding comments and questions.

Upon conclusion of discussion, Council Executive Kraher clarified the motion on the floor. The vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

ACTION ITEM (CONT'D.)

Discussion took place among Council regarding the options and issues before Council related to allocation of \$3 million in appropriated funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to various organizations for the purpose of reducing homelessness (as presented to Council and discussed on November 10, 2021). Finance Director Lovoy responded accordingly to questions related to funding, risk assessment, and federal guidelines related to expenditure of ARPA dollars. Neighborhood Services Administrator Powell and City Attorney Pepler also responded to questions related to the encampment of homeless individuals within the Hollice T. Williams greenway under the I-110 overpass.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Brahier and seconded by Council Member Broughton that City Council allocate funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the following purpose/organizations: 1) Hotel rooms for 15 women and children in the amount of \$180,000; 2) Lakeview Center - Mobile Response Team (dedicated to the people being relocated from Hollice T. Williams greenway under I-110 overpass) in the amount of \$250,000; 3) Bright Bridge Ministries – Bright Bridge (salaries) in the amount of \$281,400; 4) Pensacola Dream Center – Canopy of Hope in the amount of \$300,000; and Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola (REAP) – Navigational Holistic Center (not to include campground) in the amount of \$400,000. Such funding allocations totaling \$1,411,400.

Discussion ensued among Council. During discussion, Melissa Johnson, CEO of Fearless Community, Inc. was provided an opportunity to make clarifying statements (speaking from the audience) and Vinnie Whibbs, Vice President of Development & Director of Operations for Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola (REAP), Inc. was in attendance and called upon to respond to questions (speaking from the podium). Council Executive Kraher made follow-up remarks related to clarification of the substitute motion.

Public input was heard from the following individuals:

Daryn Flanders
Walter Arrington
Caleb Houston
Jo MacDonald
Anita Cole
Suzanne Wagg
Michelle MacNeil
Melanie Nichols
Laura Kennedy
James Michael Jones

Melissa Pino
Michael Kimberl
Lloyd Cole
Melissa Johnson
David Josephs
Leon Rankins
Shernita Wiggins-Wynder
Terri Myrick
Benjamin Harris (waived)

Discussion took place throughout public input with Council Members asking questions of speakers.

ACTION ITEM (CONT'D.)

Following public input (on the substitute motion), discussion ensued among Council with Finance Director Lovoy responding accordingly to questions. Mr. Whibbs representing REAP was also called on to respond to questions.

Following discussion, Council Executive Kraher and City Clerk Burnett provided clarification and direction regarding procedures related to proper handling of the substitute motion.

The vote was called on the substitute motion.

The substitute motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 Jennifer Brahier
No: 6 Ann Hill, Delarian Wiggins, Teniade Broughton, Casey Jones, Jared Moore, Sherri Myers

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Brahier and seconded by Council Member Broughton that City Council vote on each organization's proposal to allocate funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) starting with Bright Bridge Ministries – Bright Bridge in the amount of \$281,400.

Council Member Myers made comments.

There being no further discussion, the vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 Ann Hill, Delarian Wiggins, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton, Casey Jones, Jared Moore
No: 1 Sherri Myers

A motion was made by Council Member Brahier and seconded by Council Member Moore that City Council allocate funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to Lakeview Center - Mobile Response Team (at various sites) in the amount of \$250,000.

Council Member Wiggins requested a friendly amendment to provide funding in the amount of \$300,000. Council Member Brahier accepted.

Council Member Moore asked Council Member Wiggins to elaborate on why he requested an additional \$50,000 which he responded accordingly regarding needs within the community.

ACTION ITEM (CONT'D.)

Dr. David Josephs, Psy.D., Clinical Director of Lakeview Center, Inc., (who was in attendance) was provided an opportunity to address and clarify their proposal for a mobile response team related to the funding being recommended. **Council Member Moore indicated that his second to the motion stands with the friendly amendment.**

Discussion continued with Dr. Joseph's responding accordingly to questions.

Public input was heard from Michael Kimberl.

City Clerk Burnett asked Council Member Brahier to clarify the motion related to her reference of specific sites for the Mobile Response Team. **Council Member Brahier clarified her intent is for the response team to be dedicated to serving people within City limits.**

Additional public input was heard from Melissa Johnson.

Upon conclusion of discussion, the vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6	Ann Hill, Delarian Wiggins, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton, Casey Jones, Jared Moore
No: 1	Sherri Myers

A motion was made by Council Member Brahier and seconded by Council Member Moore that City Council allocate funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to Pensacola Dream Center – Canopy of Hope in the amount of \$300,000.

Council Member Brahier responded to questions from Council Member Myers.

There being no further discussion, the vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

ACTION ITEM (CONT'D.)

A motion was made by Council Member Myers and seconded by Council Member Brahier that City Council allocate funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola (REAP) – Navigational Holistic Center (not to include campground) in the amount of \$400,000.

Council Members Myers and Broughton made comments.

Public input was heard from the following individuals:

Michael Kimberl
Laura Kennedy
Walter Arrington

James Michael Jones
Mark Horn

Discussion took place throughout public input with Council Members asking questions of speakers.

Upon conclusion of discussion, the vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 Jennifer Brahier, Casey Jones, Jared Moore, Sherri Myers
No: 3 Ann Hill, Delarian Wiggins, Teniade Broughton

A motion was made by Council Member Brahier and seconded by Council Member Myers that City Council allocate funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for emergency reimbursement funding for the organizations granted funding for placement of homeless individuals in hotel rooms in the amount of \$180,000.

Finance Director Lovoy responding accordingly to questions from Council President Hill related to reimbursement of costs to organizations.

The vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 Ann Hill, Delarian Wiggins, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton,
Casey Jones, Sherri Myers
No: 1 Jared Moore

ACTION ITEM (CONT'D.)

A motion was made by Council Member Moore and seconded by Council Vice President Wiggins that City Council allocate funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to Children's Home Society – Homeless Reduction Intern Opportunity in the amount of \$135,254.

Public input was heard from the following individuals:

Melanie Nichols
Ashley Wilkinson Meyer

Walter Arrington

Council Member Moore responded to questions. Mr. Arrington also responded to questions.

Upon conclusion of discussion, the vote was called.

The motion carried by the following vote (with Council Member Myers no longer in attendance):

Yes: 6 Ann Hill, Delarian Wiggins, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton,
 Casey Jones, Jared Moore
No: 0 None

A motion was made by Council Member Brahier and seconded by Council Member Moore that any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding not allocated (this evening) remain appropriated for homelessness reduction for City Council to address at a later date.

The motion carried by the following vote (with Council Member Myers no longer in attendance):

Yes: 6 Ann Hill, Delarian Wiggins, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton,
 Casey Jones, Jared Moore
No: 0 None

ACTION ITEM (CONT'D.)

A motion was made by Council President Hill and seconded by Council Member Brahier to request a joint meeting with Escambia County Board of County Commissioners to discuss homelessness as a regional issue.

Council Member Moore made comments indicating he would not support the motion. Neighborhood Services Administrator Powell stated City Administration has begun discussions with County Administration on the issues of homelessness.

There being no further discussion, the vote was called.

The motion failed by the following vote (with Council Member Myers no longer in attendance):

Yes: 1	Ann Hill
No: 5	Delarian Wiggins, Jennifer Brahier, Teniade Broughton, Casey Jones, Jared Moore

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

WHEREUPON the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Adopted: _____

Approved: _____
Ann Hill, President of City Council

Attest:

Ericka L. Burnett, City Clerk