

Public Works / Finance Committee



Regular Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Monday, August 9, 2021

3:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Brandy Sullivan, Anne Zabala, Art Bettge

OTHERS: Mayor Bill Lambert, Council Member Gina Taruscio

STAFF: Gary Riedner, Sarah Banks, Bill Belknap, Jen Pfiffner, Megan Cherry, Alisa Anderson, Mia Bautista, Taylor Riedner

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of July 26, 2021 Public Works/Finance Committee Minutes (ACTION ITEM) - Taylor Riedner

The minutes were approved as presented.

2. Disbursement Report July 2021 (ACTION ITEM) - Sarah Banks

Presentation of the Accounts Payable Report for the month ending July, 2021.

ACTION: Approve and authorize the use of digital signatures to sign the Disbursements Report for the month of July 2021.

Banks introduced the item by highlighting major expenses for the previous month, including a payment for a rebuild of a sewer headworks screen, Whitcom dispatch services, south lift station force main, 3rd Street safety improvement, police station payment 13. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council consent agenda.

3. American Rescue Plan Act – National Endowment for the Arts Grant (ACTION ITEM) - Alisa Anderson / Megan Cherry

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("Rescue Plan") is designed to fuel the nation's recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds allocated to the National Endowment for the Arts ("Arts Endowment") represent a significant commitment to the arts and a recognition of the value of the arts and culture sector to the nation's economy and recovery. Grants will be made to eligible organizations to support operational costs. Rescue Plan funds are intended to support day-to-day business expenses/operating costs, and not specific programmatic activities. Eligible grant activities and costs include salary support for one or more staff positions and may be used to support existing jobs, new jobs, or to restore jobs that were furloughed or eliminated due to the pandemic. Additional eligible costs include fees/stipends for artists and/or contractual personnel to support the services they provide for specific activities as part of organizational operations. Artist fees/stipends should be related to work with a tangible outcome, such as performances, presentations, workshops, and/or the creation of artwork. Funding may also be used for costs associated with health and safety supplies for staff and/or visitors/audiences (e.g., personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.) in addition to marketing and promotion costs. Awarded applications will be notified in November 2021 with the grant project period for two years starting January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023. The Arts Department for the City of Moscow is requesting to submit a grant request not to exceed \$100,000 to support staffing costs, marketing and promotions, and artist/fees and stipends.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval to submit a grant application under the American

Rescue Plan Act through the National Endowments for the Arts for an amount not to exceed \$100,000, or provide staff further direction.

Anderson introduced the item as written above and shared the primary goal of the grant is to support communities and arts organizations. Up to 800 grants will be awarded, which vary from \$50,000, \$100,000, or \$150,000 and do not require a City match. Therefore, it may be more beneficial to ask for less to increase the chances of approval. Cherry shared the outline of anticipated uses of the funds, including offsetting the cost of the art's Administrative Specialist, an Exhibition and Collections Specialist, and paying artists for the work they do for the community. This will also assist with the art maintenance plan and other associated costs. The department has not yet put this plan into place due to staffing. The Exhibition Specialist would not be an ongoing position but would be based on the grant funds and advertised as a temporary position.

A draft application was submitted to Riedner for approval, who agreed with most of the program. Still, the Collection Specialist may need additional alternatives since funding pilot positions are typically done differently. Staff will continue to discuss options for this position before coming to council.

The grant amount must be justified, and exact details have not yet been reviewed but will be before the council meeting. The grant would start January 1, 2022, and the first expenditure would be in April of 2022 and end September 30, 2023. This is a reimbursement-type grant. Therefore, the City must submit forms to receiving funds. The Committee recommended approval and that it be placed on the Council regular agenda.

REPORTS

Staff Report (if needed)

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

