

Item 24-1063: Request to approve to de-obligate a portion of two existing ARPA fund allocations and re-obligate to Human Resources Strategic Planning Project

Common Council

Wed, Aug 21, 2024 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 26:16

All right, also from Finance Committee. This is item 24-1063, request to approve to de obligate a portion of two existing ARPA fund allocations and re obligate to Human Resources strategic planning project. Is there a motion? We have a motion and a second to approve. Open the floor for discussion. Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 26:54

Thank you, Chair. I voted against this in the finance committee because I needed more information, and I did get further information from Director Rachman, and I was very appreciative of the discussion that we had. My concern are—my concerns are twofold, one, that this seems like a lot of money to do redo a mission and vision for the city when a mission and vision for the city should be pretty straightforward: treat taxpayers equally, you know, be fair and kind, etc. I know that that's boiling it down quite a bit, but you see where I'm going with that.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 27:33

The other—pardon me, the other issue that I had was that I feel that this sort of blindsided us a little bit in that it should have perhaps come with the whole discussion about the Comprehensive Plan, as that was very strongly passed, and we are prepared to update the Comprehensive Plan. And this, I feel almost came as a little tail end, "Oh, we should do this as well," and that makes me a little bit concerned. So again, I talked with Director Ratchman about it, and got some good feedback from him about how this kind of came about, but I'm still not convinced. So, I intend to vote no, not because I don't appreciate that this is something that might be helpful for the city as an organization, but just because I feel that it came out of nowhere a little bit. Thank you.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 28:29

Alder Croatt.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 28:30

Thank you, Mayor. I share some of the concerns that Alder Hartzheim has, but I voted for this at committee, and I'm going to vote for it again tonight, because one of the questions that I asked Director Ratchman was, if this doesn't get approved using ARPA funds, what will what will happen going forward? And I believe, I believe, his comment was that it would be put into the 2025 budget as a as a project. Am I correct in that, Director Ratchman? Can we ask him to clarify?

Mayor Jake Woodford 28:57

Which mic number? Director three. Director Ratchman.

Director Jay Ratchman (HR) 29:01

So just to put that in context, the comment is not that it necessarily will be in the 2025 budget, but this is a priority. This is something that we will want to bring forward. How we fund it, that's another question. There's a lot of priorities for that—the 2025 budget.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 29:18

Okay, yeah. We did have some discussion around how to fund it, because of the importance of it. So, I saw the value in using the ARPA funding all—reallocation, re obligation. So, I would encourage support of it. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 29:35

Alder. Alfheim.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 29:36

Thank you chair. As I read through the notes and this meeting, I feel that my colleague's comments are valid. But as far as the overall plan, we very wholeheartedly supported this Comprehensive redo, and to be honest, I think this just should have been included in it. So, if the total bill would have come up to \$440, we would have wholeheartedly approved that. So, with that in mind, I don't really see a reason that we would hold back on this. It really should have been part of it. You can't build the plan and then not have the strategy and communication to make it work. So, it really should have been there from the beginning. So, I look at it as "Good thing we were under budget on the others," because this really should have been built in to begin with. So, I applaud the staff for continuing to use the dollars wisely and complete the project that we intended to pass.

Mayor Jake Woodford 30:34

Any further discussion? Hearing none we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Schultz votes, aye. Motion passes nine to one. The item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 31:00

Now that you've approved the item, I'll just say the vision for this this project goes far beyond updating a mission and vision statement, and if anyone has questions about the details of the project plan, please be in touch with Director Rachman or myself. Be happy to share that information with you all.