THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

Subject: American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds

Staff Resource(s): Patricia Rosenberg, Internal Auditor

Action Requested: Hear public comment about categories to be funded using the American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Background:

- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, which is designed to facilitate the United States' recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021.
- As part of the ARPA State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF), the City of Asheville is receiving $26,293,853.
- On July 27, 2021, City Council authorized the receipt of the $26.2 million in ARPA funding and delegated the responsibility to execute any necessary agreements related to ARPA funding to the City Manager.
- There have been two City Council work sessions to facilitate the development of a plan for spending the $26.2 million in ARPA FRF funding.
- The U.S. Treasury Department has issued guidance to describe allowable uses for the ARPA FRF funding, which centers around these major areas:
    - Public Health Uses
    - Negative Economic Impacts
    - Premium Pay for Essential Workers
    - Revenue Losses
    - Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure
    - Crime Response and Prevention.
- The City plans to issue a community-wide Request for Proposals for specific projects that fit in the categories that Council will vote to approve at the September 14, 2021 meeting.
- These are the staff recommended categories to receive funding:
    - Affordable housing
    - City infrastructure: building safety and resilience
    - Community communication
    - Domestic violence prevention and assistance
    - Food systems
    - Homelessness services
    - Small business recovery
    - Workforce development
- In addition to the staff recommendations above, these categories are eligible for funding:
    - Arts and cultural expression
    - Care for aging residents
    - Childcare
    - Emergency planning
    - Environmental protection and sustainability
    - Premium pay for essential workers
    - Public health, mental health, and substance abuse
    - Stormwater infrastructure
    - Transit
    - Transportation connectivity infrastructure
    - Utility billing

    - Water infrastructure
    - Youth programming

Council Goal(s):
- A Financially Resilient City
- An Equitable and Diverse Community
- A Clean and Healthy Environment
- Quality Affordable Housing
- A Thriving Local Economy
- A Connected and Engaged Community

Committee(s):
- Work Sessions with City Council - July 27, 2021 and August 24, 2021

Pro(s):
- Addresses community needs to aid in the recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provides equitable solutions to repair harm that was exacerbated by the pandemic and build resilience for the future

Con(s):
- None

Fiscal Impact:
- The $26.2 million in ARPA FRF funding was authorized for receipt by Council on July 27, 2021.
- Staff is bringing forward budget amendments to appropriate the funding as Council approves specific usage of the $26.2 million.

Suggested Motion:
- N/A

Attachment(s)
- None