

# NEWBERG BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 31, 2021

## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rick Rogers, Denise Bacon, Mike McBride, Stephanie Findley, Bryce Coefield, Timothy Carpenter, Molly Olson, Greg Meenahan

Staff Present: City Manager Dan Weinheimer, Assistant City Manager Kezia Wanner, Finance Manager Kady Strode, Economic Health Officer Shannon Buckmaster, and City Recorder Sue Ryan.

Action: To approve Budget Committee minutes from April and May 2021.

Motion: Rogers

Second: Coefield

Vote: 8 Yes 0 No

The committee discussed American Rescue Plan Act funds. The mission of the funds is to alleviate COVID-19 pandemic impacts to the community. The estimated funds for Newberg under State and Local Fiscal Recovery are \$5.3 million. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024; and expended by December 31, 2026.

Additional funding for the region includes an allocation of \$360,000 from the Oregon Department of Transportation for projects, and \$400,000 from the state legislature dedicated to building ADA ramps along critical routes.

Under the state and local fiscal funds, there are 4 categories of eligible uses:

- 1) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
- 2) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers.
- 3) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- 4) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Impacts from COVID-19 affected individuals/families, businesses, non-profits, and city operations. Some proposed project concepts include intentional investments (one-time), immediate impacts and needs, future spending with lasting community impact, and transformative investments. Some proposed project review principles are these are one-time funds so one-time projects (need to consider ongoing resources), programs require staff (and documentation), making Newberg more resilient to future disruptions, considering equity in investments, funding efficiencies and improvements guided by COVID, leveraging through partnerships to extend project reach.

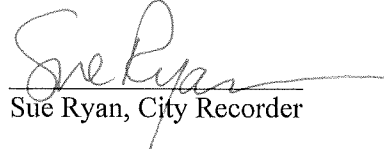
Proposed community engagement includes seeking public input, sharing decision-making criteria, soliciting ideas from affected sectors, recording each allocation, and transparency. The committee shared multiple ideas on engagement.

The committee discussed priorities for Newberg including current Council goals, doing projects sooner rather than later, limited amounts of funds, consulting community groups including those who assist poverty-stricken groups such as the School District and churches, infrastructure, housing, balancing between short term and long term impacts, sustainability, child care, and local shelter.

The timeline for decision making is for the Budget Committee to determine principles and goals in September, begin public outreach in September, and determine project ideas that meet the principles.

The next meeting will be September 15. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attest:   
Molly Olson, Budget Committee Chair

  
Sue Ryan, City Recorder