

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Common Council of the City of Ashland will meet as the Committee of the Whole on **August 10, 2021** immediately following the City Council meeting which begins at **5:30 PM**

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The following items will be considered:

1. Roll Call
2. Council President's Report
3. Administrator's Report
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Discussion Items
 - A. Discussion Only Regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
(Administration)
6. Adjournment

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NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Ashland will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals or individuals with limited English proficiency through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Denise Oliphant at 715-682-7071 (not a TDD telephone number) or FAX: 715-682-7048

SUBJECT: Discussion Only Regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds (*Administration*)**RECOMMENDATION:** Discussion Only**DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN:** Administrator**CLEARANCES:** Council President**EXHIBITS:** 1. Non-Exclusive List of Eligible Uses**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

In March of this year the Federal government enacted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which provided direct funding to municipalities to help mitigate the economic hardships of the COVID pandemic. This agenda bill is intended encourage a discussion of how funds are distributed to municipalities and how funds can be used. At the next Committee of Whole meeting we will bring back staff recommendations for use of the funds and we will be prepared to discuss any public input process the council would like to see moving forward.

Below is a very quick summary of where we are now:

- Municipalities under 50,000 residents receive ARPA funds through the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR). The allocation of funds was done on a per capita basis.
- The City of Ashland will receive approximately \$821,000 which is paid in two lump sums of \$410,500 over two years. We have already received the first half of the funds and the remainder will be paid in 2022.
- We have until the end of calendar year 2024 to expend the funds.

The information below provides a general summary of the uses of ARPA funds and the attached chart contains a more detailed analysis of the categories. As the chart states at the top, these are non-exclusive uses of the funds which means projects other than those listed may be eligible.

General categories of allowable uses of funds include the following (per Treasury):

- Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;
- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
- Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,

- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.



Non-Exclusive List of Eligible Uses

ARPA – Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Responding to the Public Health Emergency	Addressing Negative Economic Impacts	Serving the Hardest Hit	Improving Access to Infrastructure
COVID-19 mitigation • Vaccinations • Personal protective equipment (PPE) • Testing • Alternative care facilities	Workers and families • Unemployment and training • Food, housing, financial security assistance • Survivor’s benefit	Health disparities • Community health works • Public benefits navigators • Community violence intervention	Water and sewer • Drinking/wastewater infrastructure • Cybersecurity • Remediation of lead pipes • Stormwater/green Infrastructure
Behavioral health care • Mental health treatment • Substance abuse treatment • Crisis intervention	Small businesses • Loans • Grants • Counseling programs	Housing and neighborhoods • Homelessness • Affordable housing • Housing vouchers • Residential counseling	Broadband • Currently unserved or underserved • Modern technologies
Public health resources • Payroll for public health and similar employees	Impacted industries • Tourism • Travel • Hospitality • Non-profits	Educational disparities • Early learning services • School district resources • Educational services	Note: These are examples pending final guidance from the U.S. Dept of Treasury (Treasury). Review Treasury documents for details: • FAQs • Interim final rule
Essential workers • Premium pay • Retroactive premium pay	Public sector • Rehire public sector employees to pre-pandemic levels • Replace lost revenue	Healthy environments • Childcare • Enhanced child welfare services	