

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

ADG #1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER.

Councilman Cooper delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hickman, carried by Council.

ADG #3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 19, 2021, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

Motion was made by Councilman Coffey to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2021, regular Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

ADG #4 RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS: Citizens who desire to speak on matters not listed on the agenda below will be heard at this time. Citizens who desire to speak on a specific item listed on the agenda, open for public comment, will be heard when that item is considered.

Mr. Chad Coffey, Director of RARO, addressed Council. Mr. Coffey said he is a Buena Vista native, born and raised here. He lives in Augusta County and is super excited to be working back in the area. He hopes that RARO will serve the youth and adults and that everyone will be satisfied with their programs. There is a total of 474 kids enrolled in football, cheerleading and soccer: 155 are Buena Vista residents. Mr. Coffey said he is going to do what he can to make those numbers better.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know how the numbers are split up between the sports.

Mr. Coffey said there are 59 participants for soccer; there are 20 Senior members in the football program; 21 in the Junior football program. He said the numbers are low in the Peewee program and the flag football program. He said there are 75 participants in the soccer program and 21 cheerleaders. One of the cheerleading coaches is from Buena Vista. He will be trying to drive the numbers up in the future.

ADG #5 REPORTS:

1.) Mayor:

None.

2.) City Manager:

Mr. Tyree said that Council would be receiving an invitation to the REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative Grant) meeting on September 20 at the Horse Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Advancement Foundation officially closed on the Mundet property with the new owners. They are going to start clean-up here very soon. Their first initial effort will be to clean the offices since they will

require the least amount of work. The Munters building is getting ready to be listed for sale. There has already been some interest in the property and there will be a tour soon for key stake holders. There is some potential movement with that building.

3.) City Attorney:

None.

4.) Council Committee/Representative:

Councilman Henson reported that some citizens became upset because we sounded the tornado warning. There was some water in the culvert, and he opined that people do not pay attention to the warning signs. There were some flooding problems on 20th and Magnolia. That is a 15" sewer main going into a 12" sewer main. Overall, there was no damage to the City. The Chris Wheeler tournament was held this past weekend at GMP. He advised that events at the park will be winding down soon. He opined it is time for Council to start thinking about some overdue upgrades. There have been some people stepping up to raise funds to do some of the upgrades at the park. He said during the Public Works/Public Safety Committee meeting they talked about some safety concerns around the City. One of the items discussed was sight distance. He advised that some of the politicians will not be here Labor Day because of COVID. There will be a concert at the park on Saturday night before Labor Day. He then gave a break down of the Labor Day events planned for Monday, September 6th. On September 11th there will be a remembrance at the double decker at GMP for all the victims that passed away that day. He advised that 343 first responders died that day. He thanked Mark Cline, Dominion Power, Tom Roberts, and Kristina Ramsey for all the work they have done to make this remembrance happen.

Councilman Webb then addressed abandoned vehicles in Buena Vista. He opined we need to step up and get them cleaned up.

Councilman Henson said he talked to Danny Coleman and he they cannot find anyone to take the vehicles.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if the recycling center would take the vehicles.

Mayor Fitzgerald said they will not accept them.

Councilman Henson said we are stuck right now until we can find someone to take them.

Councilman Coffey advised that Grace Automotive cannot leave cars sitting there that have rejected inspection stickers and no City stickers. He said they are a car shop not a car dealer. He said he rode by there the other night and there were 30 cars on the lot and 3 or 4 parked across the street.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined that Councilman Webb was talking about whoever picked up the vehicle must hold it for so long.

Councilman Webb said according to the City Code if the place of business has a vehicle sitting on their property, you can run a VIN number and call them to come get the vehicle. If they do not come to get their vehicle, we can tow it away and then bill the owner of the vehicle.

Mayor Fitzgerald said that whoever picks the vehicle up, must have a storage area to store the cars because some of them are kept for so long before they can be scrapped.

Councilman Webb said we are getting ready to have a restaurant open across the street from Grace Automotive and the customers will not have any where to park. He opined it is a nuisance and needs to be cleaned up.

ADG #6 CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

**THE BUENA VISTA PLANNING COMMISSION:
MRS. SANDY BURKE IS NOT WILLING TO SERVE AGAIN. HER TERM EXPIRED ON 8/31/21. THIS IS A FOUR-YEAR TERM AND THE FOURTH TIME IT HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA:**

ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE JULY 7, 2021, WILL POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA – FOUR APPLICANTS – MR. BRENT STYLER, MR. JUSTIN WISEMAN, MS. CHRISTINA HIMES, MS. PAT MAYS.

Councilman Cooper said that he knows Justin Wiseman and he works at the University. He opined that all four would be good candidates for the opening.

Councilman Coffey said that he has known Ms. Mays for a long time. She has been on the BVRS for a long time. He opined she is a good woman and a hard worker.

Motion was made by Councilman Coffey to appoint Ms. Mays to the Buena Vista Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Staton.

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

			Yes	No	Abstain
				Present	Present
Mayor Fitzgerald	X			x	
Melvin Henson	X			X	
Tyson Cooper	X			X	
Vice-Mayor Cheryl Hickman	X				X
Danny Staton	X		X		
Stanley Coffey	X		X		
Steve Webb	X		X		

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to appoint Mr. Wiseman to the Buena Vista Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Coffey.

Ms. Wheeler polled the Council as follows:

			Yes	No	Abstain
				Present	Present
Mayor Fitzgerald	X		X		
Melvin Henson	X		X		
Tyson Cooper	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Cheryl Hickman	X				X
Danny Staton	X			X	
Stanley Coffey	X			X	
Steve Webb	X		X		

Councilman Henson motioned to appoint Mr. Brent Styler to the Buena Vista Planning Commission. The motion died on the floor without a second motion.

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

MR. ART FURLER’S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON 12/31/25. THIS IS A FIVE-YEAR TERM AND THE FIFTH TIME IT HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. THE TERM WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. MR. FURLER HAS MOVED AND IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO SERVE:

NO APPLICANTS: ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE JULY 7, 2021, WILL POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

This item will be carried over to the next scheduled Council meeting.

THE BUENA VISTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

MS. SKYE LOWRY HAS MOVED AND CAN NO LONGER SERVE ON THIS AUTHORITY. THIS IS A TWO (2) YEAR TERM AND THE FOURTH TIME IT HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. THE TERM WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY:

APPLICANTS: MR. WAYNE OYLER, MS. CHRISTINA HIMES, MS. PAT MAYS: ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE JULY 14, 2021, WILL POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

Motion was made by Councilman Cooper to appoint Mr. Wayne Oyler to the Buena Vista Economic Development Authority, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hickman.

Ms. Wheeler polled Council as follows:

			Yes	No	Abstain
				Present	Present
Mayor Fitzgerald	X		X		
Melvin Henson	X			X	
Tyson Cooper	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Cheryl Hickman	X		X		
Danny Staton	X		X		
Stanley Coffey	X			X	
Steve Webb	X		X		

Councilman Henson motioned to appoint Ms. Christina Himes to the Buena Vista Economic Development Authority, seconded by Councilman Webb. The motion died on the floor.

ROCKBRIDGE AREA NETWORK AUTHORITY (RANA):

MR. JOSHUA EGGLESTON HAS RESIGNED EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. HIS TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IT HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA:

ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE JULY 28, 2021, WILL POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

This item will be carried over to the next scheduled Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

OB #1 DISCUSS PHASE I – ALLOCATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:

City Manager Tyree opened the discussion by stating they have met a few times to discuss the American Rescue Plan. One of the first things he would like to discuss is a recommendation on how we should structure this moving forward. He said he has been told in the past there was a CARES ACT group that was set up that consisted of Jay, Brian, Charles, and Bill. He opined that everyone is very interested in the money and what we are spending it on, and everyone wants to be involved. He wants to make sure that we follow the process that Council wants us to. Mr. Tyree said if Council wanted to have another group of Brian, Charles, Bill, and himself to discuss how the money should

be spent and then bring it to Council, it would be ok with him. There are some guidelines out there that must be followed while spending the funds. He said they are a little bit broader than they were last year. It is a little bit more open; not as strict. There are still some limitations on what we can and can't do. There will have to do some preliminary work before we bring this before Council to vote on and start allocating the funds. He wants to make sure that we follow the process that Council wants to follow. He said he is looking for some direction from Council on how they want to move forward with the funds.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated maybe they should have another work session to go over everything.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said she agrees with the work session. She feels it is important for all of Council to know where the funds will be spent. She said when we got the first allotment of money when COVID started it was specific to COVID things. She opined it was simpler as to where the money went to. She said these allocated funds are much different and can be used for a whole lot of things in the City. She opined that all of Council be involved with the decisions on where the funds will be spent.

Mayor Fitzgerald advised that Council would have the final say on how the funds are to be spent.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said the problem is when you just come into a Council meeting and discuss only partially on how the funds are to be spent.

Councilman Webb opined that Council does not get a chance to discuss how the funds are to be spent. He said he cannot understand how you can have a group of just 3 or 4 people and no one is there from the Budget/Finance Committee that has studied the budget for the past 6 to 8 months.

Mayor Fitzgerald said the Finance Committee is just a checks and balance system. He said that is the way a lot of committees get developed.

Councilman Webb said the Budget/Finance Committee knows about where the need is better than anyone else on Council.

Councilman Coffey said there were 5 Council members at the last Budget/Finance Committee meeting. He opined they had a great meeting and they hashed out a lot about what was going on with things we need and some things we did not need.

Vice-Mayor Hickman opined that Mr. Tyree and Charles need to do what they have been hired to do. Look at the needs of the City and then come back to Council and do work sessions to decide what needs to be done. She thinks it should not be just the attorney and the mayor making the decision.

Mayor Fitzgerald said the reason it was the four of them discussing the funds is because all four of them had to sign for the money. They wanted to make sure everything was legal before it was presented to Council. He said he read Vice-Mayor Hickman's email where she said we were pulling the wool over the eyes of the public. He asked Vice-Mayor Hickman to explain that comment to him.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said over the years it has been done.

Mayor Fitzgerald said it has not been done since he has served on Council.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said the reason the City has had such financial hardships is because bad decisions were made. She opined if she is going to be on the hook for money that comes into this City, then she feels all of Council should have a part in making the decisions. That is why she ran for Council.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he thought the email was uncalled for.

Vice-Mayor Hickman told Mayor Fitzgerald that was his opinion, but she felt the email was called for.

Councilman Webb said there are 5 other members of Council that answer to the voters, and they need to be able to explain to them what is going on. He does not want 2 or 3 people making decisions for all of Council and then the remaining members of Council read about it in the paper.

Mayor Fitzgerald said that whatever Jason, Charles, Brian, the Mayor and Council wants is what will be done. They are working through it to make sure it is legal for us to do. He said it is not that they are picking and choosing.

Councilman Webb said that he did not say they were picking and choosing. He said there are plenty of Council members here that have a voice also and they expect to be heard.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he is fine with having a work session.

Councilman Webb opined a work session is great but that is not what happened last time.

Councilman Coffey said they had a work session at the Budget/Finance meeting. He said that Mr. Tyree can tell you they went through everything that was on that list with a fine-tooth comb. We do not want to just spend the money just because we have it. We want to spend it on what we need.

Mayor Fitzgerald said if they noticed what they bought to Council was not just to spend the money. He said he was a little teed about the remark that was made about Council pulling the wool over the citizens eyes.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said she stands behind the statement she made.

Mayor Fitzgerald asked Council if they wanted to do a work session on the bottom half of the list. The only problem he has with any of it is the money going to the Fire Department. He said he has a different idea about those funds.

Mr. Tyree said just so he understands about the process going forward, he and Charles will get with Brian and make sure it fits within the legal parameters and bring it to Council in a work session. The Mayor had an idea about the rescue squad with the actual breakdown of the ARP funds. What was discussed at the Finance meeting was brought up by Tyson. Give them \$25,000.00 for 6 months and then having them come back with a plan. They said this was not going to be a budget item and that it would be a one-time thing. Councilman Cooper said you give us something and we will give you something. We want a plan moving forward and want to know how they are going to do that. Mayor Fitzgerald suggested giving them \$50,000.00 and give them a year to come back with a plan. He also suggested giving the other emergency services the same amount, \$50,000.00 they can use for whatever their needs are.

Councilman Coffey stated that just because we give one money, that does not mean that we must give all of them money. It is a need not just a want. We don't want to give money to one and must give it to all. Ronnie Slough of the BVRS asked for \$100,000.00 and said that would last the squad for two years. Hopefully by the two years they will be able to sustain the payment. Give them the money in increments of \$25,000.00 every 6 months.

Councilman Webb said that Mr. Slough also said he could give all his employees a \$1.00 raise. The employees said they would be happy to have a dollar an hour raise. He suggested that instead of giving the rescue squad \$100,000.00, we give them increments of \$25,000.00 and we can hold the rest of the money in our bank account.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Mr. Tyree had talked to Mr. Slough about the new payment schedule.

Mr. Tyree said Mr. Slough would be happy with anything the City decides to give.

Councilman Coffey said it would give the rescue squad 6 months to come up with a plan for the allocated funds. He wanted to know how long we have to spend this portion of the funds.

Mr. Tyree said the funds must be spent by 2024.

Mayor Fitzgerald said if we give each one \$50,000.00, showing no favoritism, we can give them \$50,000.00 next year. He opined we cannot give to one and not the other.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said what happened to the rescue squad is different than the police department or the fire department. They went from an all-volunteer staff to a paid staff that costs them over \$300,000.00 a year. That is why they came up with a deficit. The County pays them \$85,000.00 for 28% of the cost whereas the City of Buena Vista pays them \$110,000.00 for 72% of the cost. They were not just coming in here and saying we think we need this because our people need a raise. They have been absorbing the cost for a lot.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he is not arguing with any of that; they are still going to get the same amount of money.

Councilman Webb said the urgent need right now is they are afraid they are going to lose employees to other area counties. If they can give the employees a dollar on the hour raise with \$25,000.00, his employees said they would be happy with that.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he thinks it is only fair if you do for one you should do for all.

Councilman Coffey said it has nothing to do with fair; it has to do with needs.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said she feels we are looking at need; there is no question of that. She said as an example if we purchase something that Mary Lee needs in her office, we do not go around to all the other offices and ask what they need. She said they are not trying to neglect the PD or the Fire Department. We are trying to supply the need.

Chief Hartman said he does not disagree that there are tremendous needs all over the City. He told Mr. Tyree this is a unique situation that everybody that works for the City has never been in. No one has ever asked a department what they need. We need a lot of stuff. For the years he has been here, and many years before that, we have gone into a budget deficit. They got tired of asking because they knew we did not have the money for the things they needed. Now we have a little money to do some things that we need to replace or repair. He feels it is very important to take care of your employees. We ran into some hard times a couple of months ago and we straightened that out. He opined maybe we should say here is a pot of money, what can you guys do with it to make things better.

Councilman Coffey said that it is a possibility that after 6 months we may be able to budget the money.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said they need to bring their needs to Council so we can fix their needs and then let's do what we need to do for the people in our City also. The fact remains that we are not just handing out money because we have a little bit of money. We are going to conserve that money and keep this City in a better place. A million dollars is what they are voting on to put in the general fund and that is what we need. We need this City to be good again. She does not agree with across the board. We should not

give one money because they need it and give to another because we gave to the one that has a need.

Chief Hartman said if he has a heart attack, he wants the squad at his house; if his house catches on fire, he wants the fire department at his house; if someone breaks into his house, he wants the police at his house.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said they agree and that is what they are trying to do.

Councilman Webb said we do not want to raise taxes to where you cannot afford to live here.

Councilman Coffey said if you look at all the repairs that need to be done at the wastewater plant and infrastructure, the bill is going to increase by \$25.00 per month.

Mr. Kearney opined there is a lot to be looked at.

Councilman Henson said that \$0.01 on real estate is \$30,000.00 revenue. He said the fire department owes for the building and equipment. They are not up to date on a lot of equipment, and they do not have enough equipment if any new employees join the fire department.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he has been doing this long enough to know if one department gets something, all departments want something.

Chief Hartman said that Mayor Fitzgerald has always been consistent with a raise, bonus or whatever and the employees appreciate it.

Councilman Henson said the fire department does a lot of fund raising but could not do any last year because of COVID.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined that they allocate the money at one time, and everyone gets the same amount. He suggested that they take this subject back to their work session and discuss things that Council will need before we go any further.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know if they could approve the allocation of the other funds.

Councilman Cooper said the work session will be for other expenditures.

Mr. Tyree said they can add the police department, the rescue squad, and the fire department to the work session.

Vice-Mayor Hickman wanted to know if they were going to give the rescue squad the requested \$25,000.00 or take it back to the work session.

Mayor Fitzgerald said the rescue squad will be added back to the work session.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said they had discussed giving the squad \$25,000.00. They need to give the raises so for them this is an immediate need.

Mr. Tyree said he talked to Chief Hartman yesterday about a new mobile sign at about \$15,000.00, a new K9 is about \$12,000.00.

Councilman Henson said the sign for the police department is safety and we are behind on VDOT mandates.

Mayor Fitzgerald said to start at the top of the original list and look at what has been requested.

Mr. Tyree read the list as follows:

\$185,000 – Public Works - \$85,000 for 2 trucks and \$100,000 for a dump truck and bucket truck

\$25,000 – New SCADA system

\$150,000 – New backhoe

\$50,000 – IT upgrades - \$40,000 for a phone system for City Hall

\$5,000 for additional hardware improvements

\$5,000 for upgrades to wells, tanks, etc.

Councilman Henson wanted to know if the \$50,000 for City Hall would include upgrades to be able to take credit cards.

Vice-Mayor Hickman said they have already approved that. It is just taking a long time to get it done.

Mr. Tyree went on further with the list as follows:

\$15,000 – Community Development and housing study

\$800,000 – Eligible public safety expenses

\$200,000 – Loss of revenue

The last two items, \$800,000 and \$200,000 will go back into our fund balance. At the last budget/finance committee meeting they talked about \$300,000 for public works road maintenance; pothole repair along with some lanes that need to be repainted.

Mayor Fitzgerald said he would like to take the \$300,000 for public works back to the table. One of the things he would like to discuss is public works getting another hotbox for \$15,000. We then could have some part time help for next summer and have 2 crews. Councilman Henson said the problem will be having manpower to do it.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined you can get summer help on the mowing and utilize our permanent workers to fix potholes. He also wanted to know if we allocate \$300,000 how will it be labeled.

Mr. Tyree advised that he asked the public works department if they could do potholes. They said they do not have the manpower to do potholes and did not have enough money to hire someone to do it right. The price is an estimate from the contractor to repair potholes, restripe lines, etc. This work would not be done internally from the City but an external contractor would do the work. Our crews will do some of the work such as replacing signs but will not repair potholes.

Mayor Fitzgerald wanted to know if Mr. Tyree had talked to Johnny Cole about the hot box.

Mr. Tyree said he did talk to Johnny briefly. The hot box would cost about \$15,000. The hard part is finding employees right now, especially part time employees. We are having a very difficult time right now and he is not sure what it will look like next year.

Councilman Coffey said he is not against getting a new hot box. He opined we will have to advertise early next year for part time employees.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined we need a program to look over this winter concerning part time employees. He also said some of the work could be done by community service.

Councilman Henson advised we have 3 sink holes in the City. The one in front of City Hall is getting bigger and bigger. A contractor will have to fix it.

Mr. Tyree said we can include the hotbox in with the \$300,000.00. He said there is a little cushion there in some of the costs. If a contractor cannot get started+ for a couple of months, the price of asphalt and anything else could change in a week.

Councilman Coffey said if we get 2 crews going, we might not use all the money.

Councilman Henson said the crew that is doing asphalt is also doing curb and guttering.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated again we are going to try to find a way to get some summer help.

Councilman Henson said they usually shut the asphalt plant down around November 1.

Mr. Tyree said we have \$25,000 for a Main Street Pilot Program. This would be a part time person to help Tom Roberts and Kristina Ramsey to help with Main Street, downtown, with the Town Square and helping with tourisms, economic development. It is a 1-year position without benefits. There was a \$50,000 grant for downtown businesses. Basically, we would create an internal City grant for up to \$10,000 each for 5 businesses. It would be a broad grant program so this will be one they could use as a forgivable loan for 5 years.

Mr. Kearney said that Tom Roberts has other grants that has funding for new businesses.

Ms. Kristina Ramsey advised that the Gauntlet Program has \$45,000 to support the 6 businesses that participated in the program. Three of the businesses will be opening typical store fronts in downtown. The other 3 will be expanding their businesses. The \$45,000 is already allocated. The businesses are required to stay open 1 year or they will have to pay the money back. We received many years ago a USDA grant that funded a revolving loan program. They originally started with \$100,000 and we have about \$60,000 still in there. Those loans are up to \$15,000 with 3% interest rate over 3 years. It is available to businesses but does not get a lot of use. She and Tom applied for a State COVID grant. One of the things in the grant is a cash incentive of \$1,000 for each one that applies.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if a business does not stay open for a year because of COVID would they have to pay the money back.

Mr. Tyree advised that last year the DHCD did not ask for the money back due to COVID closures.

Ms. Ramsey said all these businesses are supposed to be open by September 30th. They are in the process of applying for extensions now because some of our businesses cannot get their equipment in until the end of November.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined we need to hold the grant back.

Mr. Tyree said we can hold it back. He said he also put in \$30,000 for the Police Department - \$15,000 for a new mobile sign - \$12,000 for a new K9 unit - \$3,000 for new uniforms. There is also \$25,000 for the Buena Vista Rescue Squad.

Councilman Webb wanted to know if Council agreed to support them for a matching grant loan.

Councilman Cooper said the \$25,000 was part of the \$30,000 to match other loans.

Mr. Tyree said there are a couple grants the PD is applying for.

Mayor Fitzgerald wanted to know if the money could be used for that. He asked Mr. Kearney if he would find out if the funds can be used for a matching grant. He feels it would depend on what the grant is used for.

Mr. Kearney said he will check it out.

Chief Hartman said that what Mr. Tyree was talking about is not a grant, it is a bonus from the State. If they give you the money, then the jurisdiction must match the funds.

Mr. Tyree said the sheriff's department and the jail employees got a \$3,000 bonus.

Councilman Henson wanted to know what happened to the last K9 the City had.

Chief Hartman said nothing happened to it. He said they had to retire 2 Sheppard's because they were trained on marijuana. They still have the hound.

Mr. Tyree said the last one is the \$25,000 for the rescue squad.

Councilman Henson wanted to know if playground equipment could be counted as infrastructure.

Mr. Tyree said there are several communities that he has seen that are using playground equipment from ARP funds. He is trying to determine whether they are using it from the actual ARP funds or whether they are putting it into their general fund balance and then taking the money from the general fund balance and spending it on playground equipment.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know how they did the skatepark last year.

Mr. Tyree said they probably took their public safety salaries and put that money back into the general fund. Once it is in your general fund you can spend it however you need to. He wants to confirm that is what other communities are doing. If that is the case, we will have to put more funds into the fund balance.

Councilman Henson motioned to adopt everything except the \$50,000 for the City grant and get things moving.

Vice-Mayor Hickman seconded the motion.

Mayor Fitzgerald said Council wanted restrictions on the funds for the rescue squad. They can give the raise out of their money if they know they are getting the money. Council wanted restrictions by wanting paperwork. He opined if you give them the money without the restrictions, they do not have to give any paperwork.

Councilman Webb said the rescue squad said they were going to figure it out how to make it work with \$25,000. If they cannot make it work with \$25,000, then we can give them another \$25,000.

Vice-Mayor Hickman advised they have not had an audit yet to show Council.

Mr. Tyree said they will bring it in as soon as they receive this year's audit.

Mr. Kearney opined that Council could make all future payments subject to showing Council the need for the funds.

Councilman Webb seconded the motion made by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn M. Wheeler, Clerk of Council

DATE: