

Special Council Meeting
August 4, 2020 7:00PM

Mayor Scott Schultz called the special meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Council Members David Butler, Kale Dankenbring, Amanda Milne, Dara Carmichael, and Larry Finley. Also present were City Clerk Lila Whitmore and City Attorney Lauren Reyelts.

The meeting was called to discuss the Direct Aid portion of the SPARK (Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas) funding from the County. Clerk Whitmore explained that various stakeholders in the County, including the City, can submit plans to the County for Direct Aid for COVID related expenses. These plans are due to the task force by Friday. The County task force consists of Emergency Management Director Ryan Murray, County Clerk Scott Houtman, County Attorney Leslie Beims, and Kelley Milliken.

David shared information that he had found regarding the different areas of funding and expenses that are eligible.

Kelley Milliken, representing the County Task Force, was present to explain the program and to answer questions. The County received approximately \$526,000 that can be disbursed to the various stakeholders including the City of St. Francis, City of Bird City, Cheyenne County, Cheyenne County Hospital, Cheyenne County Village, St. Francis USD297, Cheylin USD103, and the housing authorities.

Each stakeholder submits a plan for what they would like to purchase or have done that is related to COVID. She shared some of the ideas that have been talked about. The schools are looking into purchasing thermal imaging temperature cameras. The County Health Department has discussed purchasing portable hand sanitizing stations. EMS has purchased a fogger that others can utilize to do a mass disinfectant of an area if needed. Bird City is considering establishing a Funeral Assistance Fund and an Emergency Relief Fund for citizens who have been impacted by the COVID pandemic. Some have talked about restroom renovations including touchless toilets, sinks, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and automatic doors. These would all be considered qualified expenses.

Since Cheyenne County hasn't been hit, yet, like other areas have been Kelley encouraged the Council to think outside the box and consider things that can be done now and put into place to help prevent future spread of COVID.

Lila asked how specific the plan needs to be. Kelley indicated it just needs to be a general idea and does not need to be specific at this point. Any funds not used by December 30 must be returned. Kelley confirmed that if the Council requests an amount but has two different categories they want to use the funds for the money could be moved between the two as needed.

The Council spent a considerable amount of time discussing options and sharing ideas on what would be of the most benefit to the community. The Council liked the idea of getting hand sanitizer stations for high trafficked areas used by the public such as the pool, museums, library, theater, and senior center and portable ones that could be used for special events. They also felt that renovating city owned facilities including the roadside park and courthouse park restrooms with touchless soap and paper towel

dispensers, toilets, and sinks would be a good idea. Establishing an emergency relief fund for citizens impacted by COVID was also discussed. Details can be worked out later if the funding is received.

After much consideration, it was decided to request \$120,000 to be used to increase sanitary precautions in highly trafficked areas within the city limits and/or properties owned by the City of St. Francis including the hand sanitizer stations and restroom renovations, and to create an Emergency Relief Fund to provide support to citizens of Saint Francis who have suffered a financial detriment due to COVID-19. A motion was made by Kale and seconded by Dara to request \$120,000 for the Direct Aid funding. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Amanda and seconded by Larry to adjourn the special meeting. Motion passed.

City Clerk