

Minneola City Council**Workshop Minutes****Minneola City Hall****September 8, 2020 at 6:54 PM*****(Immediately following the C.R.A. Meeting and Budget Hearing)***

The City of Minneola Council Workshop was called to order by Mayor Pat Kelley. Also present were Vice Mayor Pam Serviss, Councilor Jones, Councilor Kelly Price, Councilor Joe Saunders, Scott Gerken (City Attorney), Mark Johnson (City Manager), and Christina Stidham (City Clerk). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all present were practicing “social distancing” by remaining at least six feet apart in the council chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was observed, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Vice Mayor Serviss**.

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes.

DISCUSSION ITEM**Item 1: CARES Act Funding**

Mayor Kelley explained the possibility of Minneola receiving CARES Act funds from the County and suggested using them to assist residents and employees negatively impacted by COVID-19. He suggested setting aside approximately \$474,650 for residents, \$150,000 to reimburse the City for its past and future expenses, and \$50,000 for employees.

Council discussed grant parameters, stipulations, and distribution options such as gift cards rather than checks. Identifying and confirming residency through water billing records was also discussed.

Scott Gerken explained the trickle-down fund distribution methodology where the State receives funds from the federal government, passes them down to counties based on population, and the counties may pass them down to the cities. He added that the grand total Minneola can receive is \$674,650 and may be used by the City for expenses incurred from COVID-19 such as P.P.E. (personal protective equipment) and employee time spent on COVID-19 tasks such as cleaning. He further elaborated that the funds can also be used for economic assistance but can't be distributed to everyone. The funds must be distributed within the guidelines set out under the CARES Act.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Smith, resident, suggested verifying owners of multiple properties so duplicating distributions does not happen.

51 **Paul Giacalone**, resident, suggested doing something for seniors in the area and those that lost
52 their jobs.
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54 **Gustavo Ortiz**, resident, suggested unequally distributing the funds by filtering and tiering the
55 distribution based upon a citizen's employer or career field so those that are more likely to have
56 been impacted receive more funding.
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58 **Council** discussed the complexity of the issue and the time restraints.
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60 **Nathan Focht**, county resident, spoke about basing the amount of assistance and level of impact.
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62 **Daniel Smith**, resident, commented on the tiered system and suggested not using too many
63 multipliers as it adds unnecessary complexity and recommended not excluding any citizen based
64 upon their career industry.
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66 **Council** consensus was that everyone affected by COVID-19 that applies for the grant gets the
67 same amount of assistance and explained complicating the process could cause the City to lose the
68 entire grant due to the narrow timeframe.
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70 **Council** discussed ways to get the grant information out using signage, letters, water bills, message
71 boards, the website, and social media.
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73 **FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT**
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75 There were no final comments.
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77 **MOTION by Councilor Price, SECONDED by Vice Mayor Serviss, to adjourn the meeting.**
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79 **AYE:** Serviss, Jones, Kelley, Price, Saunders
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81 **NAY:** None
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83 **MOTION PASSED: 5-0**

84 *(Meeting adjourned at 7:54 P.M.)*
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93 Pat Kelley, Mayor

94 **ATTEST:**
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101 Christina Stidham, City Clerk

