

CITY COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 6:57 p.m.  
Council Chambers – Denison, Iowa

A planning session of the City of Denison, Iowa was held pursuant to law on the above date and hour. Mayor Soseman called the meeting to order with the following members present: CURNYN, GARCIA, GRANZEN, LOGAN, and MILLER.

Old Business

**WELLNESS CENTER UPDATE** Garcia gave an update on the Wellness Center. They are looking at partnering with the YMCA, who would like to work with our community. The City would build the facility, but the YMCA would run it. One concern was changing to all YMCA programming. Garcia explained that they would not want to change any programming already in place, just supplement programming with what they offer. Another concern was that our current Parks & Rec employees would need to separate from city employment and be hired by the YMCA, which would mean losing city benefits such as IPERS. Garcia said that other cities have shared the costs for employment which would keep them as city employees too. Garcia also said that for this to be successful, we would need to have some participation from other entities. A full committee meeting is scheduled for next week.

**DISCUSS USE OF ARPA FUNDS** The following items were discussed as projects to use the ARPA funds, which total approximately \$1.2 million. Crawford said that because the city received less than \$10 million, the funds can be used for a wider range of projects.

- DMU's request for \$200,000 for their water distribution project: Council would like to see the total of DMU's reserve fund before committing to this project.
- Replacing Kid's Kastle: Brian Kempfert distributed several photos showing a lot of crumbling and wearing of the wood and other components of the playground, which is reaching the end of its lifespan. Although repairs and replacements can be made, they are not cost effective anymore. Kempfert also submitted photos of ideas for a replacement. He is looking into grants and other funding opportunities to help pay for the replacement.
- Wellness Center: Some of the money could be used to help with the costs of a wellness center.
- Affordable Housing: Now that the federal government has added to the list what the funds can be used for, using some of the money towards affordable housing projects is a possibility.

Council will do more research on these projects and bring them back to the next planning meeting.

**DISCUSS TIMECLOCKS** Logan requested to discuss this issue after the new City Clerk is hired and begins.

New Business

FREQUENCY OF PLANNING  
SESSIONS

Council would like to schedule planning sessions following the second meeting of the month to stay current with ARPA funding opportunities. The next planning session will be following the April 19, 2022, City Council meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

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Pamela Soseman, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Christy Welch, Deputy Clerk