



# City Council Worksession

## Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

January 11, 2022

### I. CALL TO ORDER

5:00 PM

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

Members of Council in attendance - Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, and Mayor Murray.

### II. PRESENTATION ITEMS

#### A. Update on the Technical College of the Lowcountry's activities and priorities.

Mary Lee Carns, Vice President for Advancement and Continuing Education and Dr. Richard Gough, President, Technical College of the Lowcountry, spoke about the students and programs that are being offered at the college. Right now, they have over 4,000 students enrolled and 40 percent of those are enrolled in health science programs with nursing being the primary field. Since 1968, more than 85,000 students have attended programs at the college.

Mayor Murray, inquired about the students enrolled, how many were in credit versus noncredit programs. Ms. Carns stated that it is split down the middle. Dr. Gough said they are looking more towards credentialing and less towards degrees.

Councilman Mitchell asked which campus seems to be growing the fastest. Dr. Gough responded that there is an increasing demand for the New River campus. The Beaufort campus, however, is the largest.

Ms. Carns, spoke about dual enrollment. This is where high school students also attend programs at the college. Last year, they had more than 500 high school students from Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties that were enrolled. They earned over 6,000 college credits. Dr. Gough stated that out of the 500 students, more than 425 come from Beaufort County. The Beaufort County School District pays for the students to attend the college programs. Every year they have high school seniors who are graduating high school with an associate degree.

Ms. Carns, talked about the Cybersecurity Programs. She stated that they hired Angela Kern to be the Program Director. Ms. Kern comes from Penn State, where she was teaching Cybersecurity at the Harrisburg campus. She has over 20 years of experience in technology and risk management.

Ms. Carns went over their capital projects that currently include an expansion of the Health Sciences that will cost an estimated 5 million dollars. The Culinary Institute of the South is a 30,000 square foot building that was recently completed for 15.3 million dollars. A future project is to have a Regional Workforce Training Center that will be 50,000 square feet. Estimated cost for this project is 20 million dollars. This building would go on the New River Campus.

Dr. Gough stated that the city could help by assisting with the funding for the purchase of an infant baby simulator at a cost of \$80,000.00. This would help expand the nursing program.

**B. Results of the public survey on the American Rescue Plan Funds.**

Kathleen Williams, Communications and Marketing Director, presented the results of the community engagement project done through Civil Space to gather input on how the citizens wish to see the American Rescue Plan Funds spent. The survey ran from November 29 - December 31, 2021. The city is receiving 6.5 million dollars. Half has been received. There were a total of 350 responses. They were able to select as many funding priorities as they wanted. Stormwater projects and Police/Fire upgrades received the most responses, while City revenue loss was the lowest.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, stated that updated recommendations will be made by staff and hopefully will be presented to council at the next worksession.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

### **III. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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Councilman Cromer made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilman Lipsitz.

- A. Pursuant to Title 30, Chapter 4, Section (70) (a) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Law: Discussion regarding personnel, employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion and/or discipline of persons employed, and/or regulated, and/or appointed by the City.

Councilman Cromer made a motion to come out of Executive Session and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, McFee.

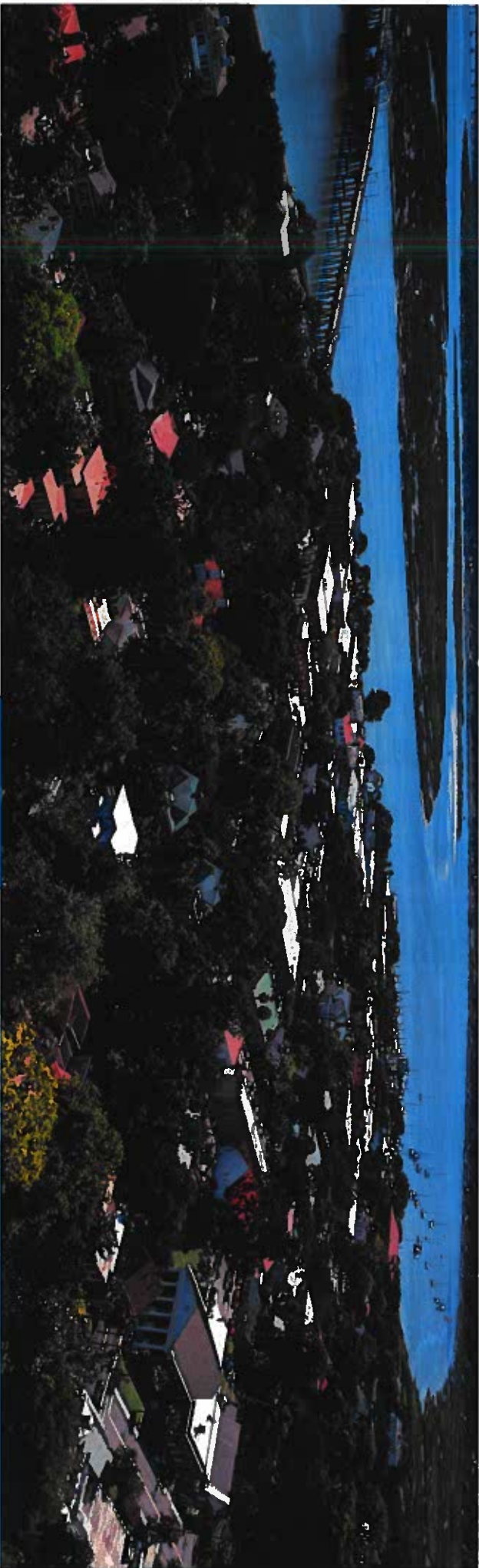
No actions from Executive Session.

### **IV. ADJOURN**

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**7:10 PM**

Disclaimer: This document is a summary. All City Council Worksession and Regular Meetings are recorded. Live stream can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofbeaufort.org](http://www.cityofbeaufort.org) (Agenda section). Audio recordings are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk, Traci Guldner at 843-525-7024 or by email at [tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:tguldner@cityofbeaufort.org).



# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN



Summary

Public Input

Jan. 11, 2022

CITY OF BEAUFORT



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# BACKGROUND

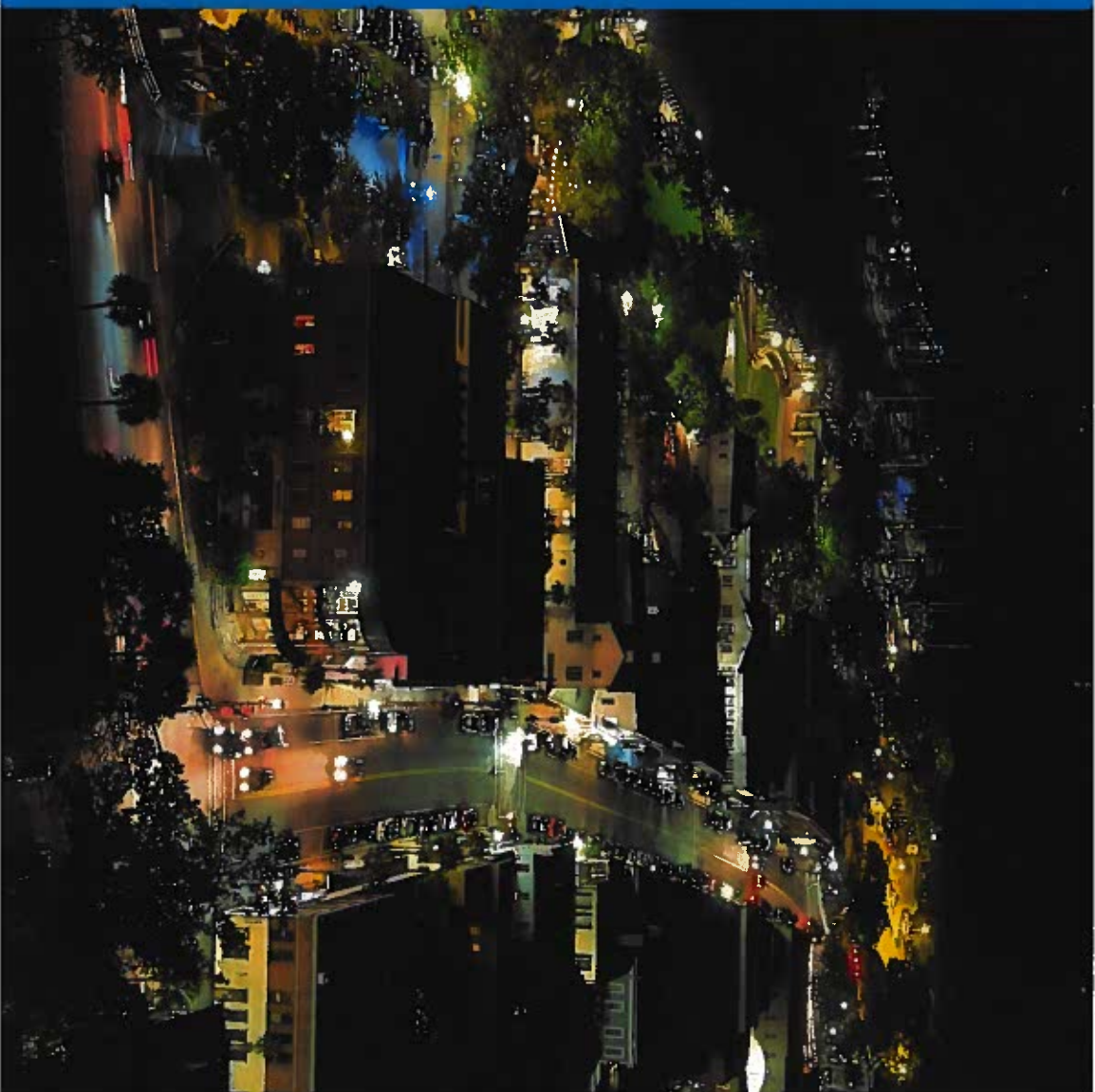
City is receiving \$6.54M in funds

Half has been received

Half expected by next October

Some restrictions on use of funds

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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/CIVIL SPACE

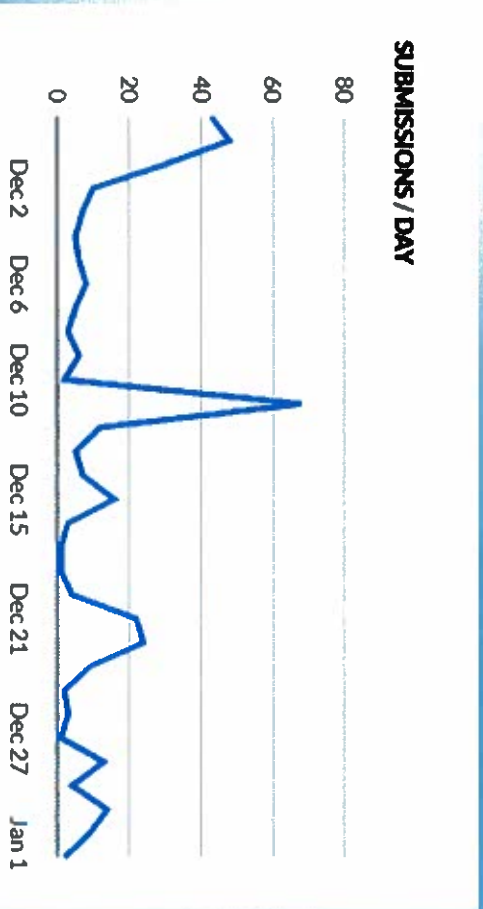
Survey posted from Nov. 29-Dec. 31, 2021

Responses

- Gave respondents list of funding priorities and asked them to indicate which ones they would fund

350 complete responses (89% rate)  
(Someone could have filled it out more than once.)

- Asked respondents to rank funding priorities
- Asked for input on other funding priorities not listed





# FUNDING PRIORITIES

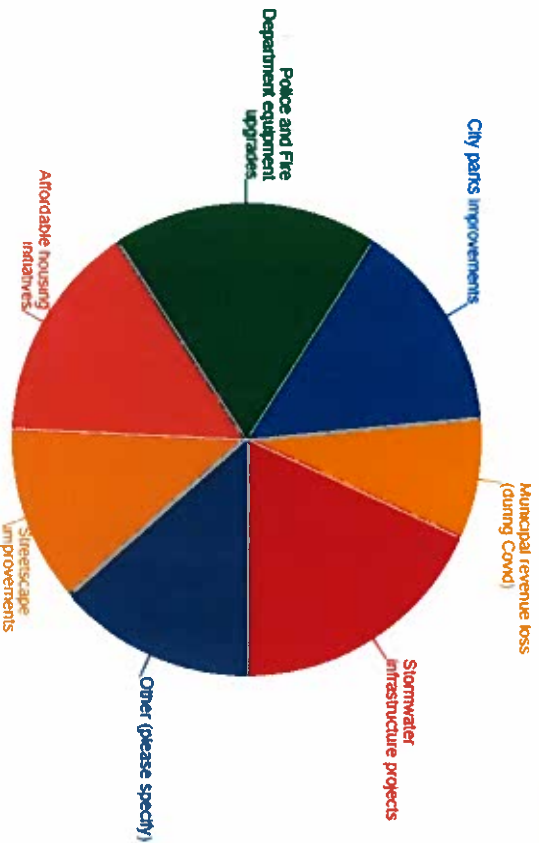
Select as many funding priorities as you would like:

**Stormwater projects**  
145/18.17%

**Police/Fire upgrades**  
145/18.17%

**Affordable housing**  
121/15.16%

**City parks**  
115/14.41%



**Other**  
107/13.41%

**Streetscape**  
98/12.28%

**City revenue loss**  
67/8.4%





# RANKING

Rank the funding priorities  
In order of your  
preference\*:

Answer Options	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Total
Police/Fire upgrades	24.57% 86	20% 70	14% 49	17.43 61	10.86% 38	13.14% 46	350
Stormwater projects	17.71% 62	22.57% 79	19.71% 69	16.29% 57	11.43% 40	12.29% 43	350
Affordable housing	24% 84	14% 49	14.86% 52	10.86% 38	12.57% 44	23.71% 83	350
Park upgrades	13.14% 46	16% 56	20.86 73	18.57% 65	18.29% 64	13.14% 46	350
Streetscapes	11.43% 40	14.57% 51	16.57% 58	22% 77	20.29% 71	15.14% 53	350
City revenue loss	9.14% 32	12.86% 45	14% 49	14.86% 52	26.57% 93	22.57% 79	350

\*How to read this: 24.57% of respondents chose police/fire upgrades as their first priority (86 respondents); 20% chose it as their 2<sup>nd</sup> priority, etc.



## ANY OTHER IDEAS FOR USE OF FUNDS?

**This was asked in 2 different questions**

**197 responses**

- Many had several ideas in each response
- Answers were duplicated at times
- Bonuses/raises for first responders: 73
- Social services help/homeless help: 25
- Affordable housing/help with housing costs: 18
- Streetscapes/street repairs/bike baths/parks: 15
- Beautification/clean up city/blight: 13
- Stormwater projects: 10
- Help businesses impacted: 6

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## OTHER REQUESTS



Center for the Arts  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BEAUFORT

### USCB Center for the Arts

- Replacement of seats and carpet in auditorium  
\$185,000
- Fly system for stage  
\$250,000



Hopeful  
Horizons

### Hopeful Horizons

Has seen increase in people suffering from abuse since start of pandemic

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