

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021 9:00 A.M.**

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson, Aaron Banks; Vice Chair, Ashby Foote (via Teleconference); Angelique Lee, Brian Grizzell (via Teleconference), Vernon Hartley and Virgi Lindsay, Council President. Directors: Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor, Dr. Safiya Omari, Chief of Staff; Louis Wright, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Constance Anderson White, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council, and Denise Fortner, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council.

Absent: Kenneth Stokes.

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The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson Aaron Banks**.

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DISCUSSION: How can ARPA funds be used? Chairperson Banks recognized **Hailey Martin and John McCormick** from the **Capital Group**, who gave a brief overview of how ARPA funds could be used.

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The council made a request for the following information:

1. How many officers did the City of Jackson have in 2020?
2. How many officers does the City have today?
3. How many officers graduated training in 2021?
4. How many officers has the City of Jackson lost from March 2020 – August 2021?

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Chairperson Banks recognized **Carla Dazet, Deputy Director of Public Works**, who gave an overview on water/sewer payments, and what anticipated payments would add to the city’s budget.

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Chairperson Banks recognized **Paul Hobson, Jackson Police Association** who spoke about the concerns of the officers and the need for a pay increase.

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Council Members discussed who would be in favor of a 1 Mil tax increase. **Council Members Banks and Grizzell** were in favor, **Council Members Foote and Hartley** were not in favor and **Council Members Lee and Lindsay** were unsure.

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Chairperson Banks stated that the Finance Department provided answers to council questions from Tuesday, August 24, 2021 was submitted and discussed.

1. How much has been spent on COVID relief? How much has been refunded?

In FY 2020 \$1,033,161

In FY 2021 \$2,078,711

Total Expenditures \$3,111,872

The city has not been reimbursed for any of the expenditure for COVID. We still have funds that are encumbered that are relating to the COVID account.

2. What is the current balance of the General Fund?

I don't have that information at this time.

3. Please give breakdown of how the \$12.798 million that was given to Public Works was spent.

The actual money given to Public Works is \$12,839,990 and increase of \$41,490.

- Cornerstone Engineering Design Amendment \$ 941,490
- Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Services (Waggoner Engineering, Inc.) \$1,900,000
- 48' Water Main (Utility Constructors, Inc.) \$7,798,500
- Balance the FY2022 Budget \$2,200,000

4. Presently what is the actual dollar amount in regard to the 7.5% reserve fund?

The amount in the FY2021 7.5% Reserve Fund is \$8,623,317.

5. Please give a running tab of how all Federal Funds have been spent (question for Louis Wright)

Allocations of funds to Public Works - \$12,839,990 (61%) for FY2021

- \$ 941,490 Cornerstone Engineering Design Amendment
 - \$1,900,000 Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Services (Waggoner Engineering, Inc.)
 - \$7,798,500 48' Water Main (Utility Constructors, Inc.)
 - \$2,200,000 Balance the FY2022 Budget
- \$12,839,990

Economic Development Projects

- \$2,000,000 Amite/Farish Soul City Market
 - \$ 250,000 Bean Patch – Tech District
 - \$ 500,000 Guarantee Income Program
 - \$ 500,000 Co-Operative Incubator Business
 - \$ 250,000 Zoo
 - \$4,139,175 Contingency
- \$7,639,175

Funds Dispersed (Docket August 31, 2021)

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- \$ 570,000 Jackson Convention Complex
\$ 570,000

\$21,049,165 Total Federal Funds Received

6. What is the breakdown of 6.2 million spent in July?
 - Payroll, supplies and materials, other operating supplies and capital expenditures
 - Veolia North America (January 2021) \$1,088,149.21
 - Veolia North America (May 2021) \$1,088,149.21
 - Veolia North America (June 2021) \$1,088,149.21
 - Max Foote Construction \$ 466,755.83

These are just a few of the examples of the items included in the \$6.2 million
7. How many delinquent accounts (water/sewer) does the city currently have? (Question for Carla Dazet)
As of July 1, 2021 we have 14,558 active accounts delinquent
8. What percentage of bill payment (water/sewer) goes to water? Solid waste? (Question for Carla Dazet)
The system was configured to at one time to pay the sanitation service agreement first and then the water/sewer service agreement. Bob Miller changed the configuration to a proportionally equal payment to both service agreements.
9. Where are we with negotiations regarding the sanitation contract?
Refer this question to the CAO.
10. What is the amount of the contract? Is the amount in the proposed budget?
 - a. Refer this question to the CAO.
 - b. No, \$6.3 million is in the Proposed Budget which is insufficient. We cannot increase the Sanitation Budget without a rate increase.

Submitted on August 25, 2021 by the Director of Administration, LaaWanda Horton.

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Committee Members discussed that there was a need for more deliberation and that the meeting would recess until Friday morning, August 27, 2021 at 9:00 am.

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There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was recessed at 11:33 a.m.

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The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson Aaron Banks** at 9:06 a.m.

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Chairperson Banks opened the floor for suggestions on how to raise money, to give Corporals, Dispatchers, and LDOs a raise this year. A suggestion was made by Chairperson Banks to make cuts in each department to obtain the necessary funds. **Chairperson Banks** recognized **Dr. Omari** who stated that the departments are already operating with the bare minimum, departmental cuts should be a last option to find funding for raises.

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Chairperson Banks recognized **Councilman Foote** who proposed that the budget be amended to add \$1 million to Public Works for building maintenance.

Chairperson Banks recognized **LaaWanda Horton, Director of Administration**, who stated that travel should not be cut to find funding for raises, due to the need for training. If travel is cut to fund raises, city employees will not be able to attend the much needed training that has been scheduled for the upcoming year.

Note: Council Member Foote left the meeting.

Council Members discussed who would be in favor of a millage increase. **Council Members Banks, Grizzell, Lee and Lindsay** were in favor; **Council Members Hartley** were not in favor and **Council Members Foote** was absent.

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There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

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