

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021 9:00 A.M.**

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Present: Committee Members: Chairperson, Aaron Banks; Vice Chair, Ashby Foote; Angelique Lee, Brian Grizzell (via Teleconference), Vernon Hartley and Virgi Lindsay, Council President. Directors: Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor, Dr. Safiya Omari, Chief of Staff; Shanekia Jordan, Clerk of Council, Denise Fortner, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council, Victor Allen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council, and Monica Allen Interim City Attorney.

Absent: Kenneth Stokes.

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

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**Council Member Banks** recognized **LaaWanda Horton, Director of Administration**, who stated that the City transferred 3.2 million dollars from the General Fund to spend on Covid relief. The City of Jackson received \$21,049,165.00 in ARPA funds on 6/7/21: \$12,798,500.00 was given to Public works, and \$2 million of those funds were used to balance Water/Sewer budget and \$570,000.00 was given to the Convention Center.

**DISCUSSION**

Covid relief fund – how much has been spent and how much has been refunded.  
ARPA funds – how much was received and how has the money been spent so far.  
Exactly how much is the 7.5% that should be on reserve in the General Fund?  
What is the current balance of the General Fund?

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Council Committee Members then made a request for a breakdown of how the \$12,798,500.00 given to Public Works was spent. The Council also requested that the CAO (Louis Wright) give a running tabulation on how all Federal Funds are being spent. Water/Sewer spent \$6.2 million spent in July of this year, please provide a breakdown of how those funds were spent.

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**Chairperson Banks** recognized **LaaWanda Horton, Director of Administration**, who then stated that the exact balance of the General Fund was unavailable due to the CAFER not being complete, the city has not received a completed CAFER since 2019.

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Answers to council questions from August 18 and August 23, 2021 were submitted and discussed.

1. How many City of Jackson employees make less than \$10 an hour and how much money would it take to raise salaries to a livable wage?
  - a. There are 233 employees who make less than \$10.00 per hour.
  - b. It will cost over \$7 million to raise salaries to a livable wage of \$15.00. There will also need to be an additional adjustment based on the following examples:
    - Clerks, Secretaries, Office Coordinators etc. - will all make the same amount (these are just a few positions)
    - Firefighter II, LDO, RDO, and Captain – the supervisors will be making the same as the employees they supervise (these are just a few positions) (This will also be a factor in other departments)

2. What is the plan for spending the 7 million left in ARPA money?  
Economic Development Projects

• Amite/Farish Soul City Market	\$2,000,000
• Bean Patch – Tech District	\$ 250,000
• Guarantee Income Program	\$ 500,000
• Co-Operative Incubator Business	\$ 500,000
• Zoo	\$ 250,000
• Contingency	\$4,180,665

3. How much money would it take to raise Corporal salaries to \$45,000 and each tier above to get raises in \$3,000 increments.
  - Corporal \$1,151,496.86 without insurance
  - Sergeant \$ 201,837.92 without insurance
  - Lieutenant \$ 7,131.00 without insurance

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\$1,360,465.78

4. Who determines the increase in Millage from FY20 6.15 to FY21 9.59?  
The millage is determined by the interest and principle payments on the bonds for that fiscal year. The debt services payment comes from the amortization schedule provided when the bonds are issued.
5. When was the last time Parks and Recreations generated revenue?  
Parks and Recreation revenue is listed on the attached report as Admissions, Fees and Rentals.

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**Chairperson Banks** recognized **LaaWanda Horton, Director of Administration**, who stated that the City has not closed out the FY2020 or 2021 budget as of today. The spending amount of General Fund for FY 2021 is \$14 million. **LaaWanda Horton**, also submitted a letter informing Council about WSBA resolving the billing software and meter issues

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**Chairperson Banks** recognized **LaaWanda Horton, Director of Administration**, who also informed Council Members the City of Jackson is very close to resolving the billing software and meter issues at WSBA and has not made it to a point to generate the required revenue. The meter readers started manual readings in the month of August, however, this will not help the FY2021 Budget. The City billed \$3.6 million, collected \$3.1 million and spent \$6.2 million in the month of July. As a reminder, we have to send \$1.6 million to Trustmark every month for debt service which is required by the Bond Counsel. If the billings, collections, and spending stay at the same level as the month of July, the Water/Sewer Fund will be short an estimated \$2.5 million. The Water Sewer billing issues at WSBA also have an impact on the Sanitation Division. As of July, Sanitation has a deficit of \$2.6 million and if the billings, collections, and spending stay the same as in July, they will have an estimated \$3.4 million deficit as of September 30, 2021.

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After a thorough discussion and there being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

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