

**MINUTES OF A
JOINT WORKSHOP WITH
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
AND RUSK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

April 5, 2021

The City Council and County Commissioners met on this date at 9:00 A.M. with Judge Joel Hale and Mayor John (Buzz) Fullen presiding. Commissioners present included Randy Gaut, Robert Kirkendall, Greg Gibson, and Bennie Whitworth. Council Members present included Michael Searcy, Henry Pace, and Steve Higginbotham.

Staff members present included City Manager Jay Abercrombie, City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson and Phedra Johnson.

WORKSHOP:

1. Discuss and possibly act on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Judge Joel Hale introduced Shirleen Bonacci and Keith Payne with Grant Works, stating he had asked them to join this workshop. Judge Hale turned the floor over to City Manager Jay Abercrombie. Jay had created and handed out a synopsis of the very lengthy American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Jay stated his belief was that the funds that flow down to the County will be from Federal Government and the City will receive theirs from the State. Eligible uses consist of four categories: Public Health Emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease of 2019, Premium pay for essential workers of the local government, Government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to covid 19, and to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. There are other funds earmarked for Community Projects that have an April 30th deadline to apply for, over and above the already appropriated funds. Keith with Grant Works will continue to look into this and expect the deadlines to be pushed out. Keith and Shirleen with Grant Works suggested the City have on the next Council Agenda authorizing request for proposals (RFP) for administrative services and requests for qualifications (RFQ's) so the application process for said funds can begin immediately.

Shirleen with Grant Works agreed with Jay on the flow of the funds. The State has 30 days after receiving funds from the Federal Government to disburse it out to the cities.

City Manager Jay Abercrombie and Judge Joel Hale will begin submitting Commissioners, Council Members and staff from both entities to form a Project Committee. The committee will prioritize a list of projects that cross these entities, allowing time for both to submit applications for the funds.

ADJOURNMENT:

2. Adjourn.

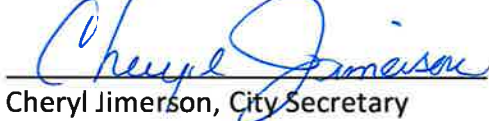
There being no further business at this time, Judge Hale adjourned the Commissioners Court.

Upon a motion by Council Member Steve Higginbotham, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace; the City Council was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVED:


John (Buzz) Fullen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary